



# NIGERIA MEDIA

Needs Assessment 2023

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# ABOUT THIS ASSESSMENT

Between the months of November 2022 and March 2023, Internews Project Director and Media Development Advisor, Arwen Kidd completed a targeted assessment, designed to: identify current challenges and needs of the media in Nigeria; gather insight and experience from a range of actors and civil society organizations involved in media and/or key development or humanitarian issues in the country; gather information on currently or recently implemented media strengthening programs; and identify some of the most pressing information needs and information gaps present among the people of Nigeria.

The following report was compiled to provide a more in-depth look at the needs of the media in Nigeria, moving forward into the 2023 post-election period, and to suggest new activities and thematic areas for possible engagement. The primary goal is to increase support for media as well as digital rights activists in the country — both of whom play a crucial role in ensuring continued access to quality, local information that saves lives, improves livelihoods, and holds institutions accountable.



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## ABOUT INTERNEWS

Internews is an international media support nonprofit with 30 offices around the world, including headquarters in California, Washington DC, London and Paris, and regional hubs in Bangkok, Kyiv, and Nairobi. At Internews, we believe everyone deserves trustworthy news and information to make informed decisions about their lives and hold power to account. To learn more about our work, please visit our website: <https://internews.org/>

# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The media in Nigeria plays a crucial role in keeping citizens informed — in many cases crossing literacy and/or language barriers to ensure communities have access to quality, local information — while also supporting broader accountability efforts and serving as a watchdog for good governance.

That said, media practitioners in the country face a number of serious challenges in carrying out these crucial roles. As this report explains, some of these challenges include the following:

- Financial difficulties (including a lack of strong business development, management, and sustainability skills; expensive operational costs, compounded by unreliable electricity supply and rising fuel prices; and limited/restrictive advertising opportunities).
- Unprofessional/unethical journalism practices and high turnover rates among staff (often aggravated by poor management practices — such as failures to pay staff a living wage — and the widespread practice of “brown envelope journalism”).
- The proliferation of mis/disinformation and hate speech across the country, which has been further fueled by the rapid adoption of social media and widespread lack of media literacy skills (particularly in rural areas).
- Increasingly restrictive laws and regulations, as well as government censorship, which threaten to infringe on media freedom, freedom of expression, and freedom of information in the country.
- Severe security and safety concerns (with Nigeria being home to the majority of West Africa’s violent attacks, shooting deaths, and cases of arbitrary detention of journalists in recent years; as well as numerous ongoing security crises across the country, including widespread banditry and kidnapping, extremist insurgencies, a growing separatist movement, ongoing violence between rival ethnic and religious groups, and deadly clashes between nomadic animal herders and agricultural farmers).
- Ongoing challenges in meeting citizens’ need for timely, quality reporting and media products which provide communities with the information they need on key issues, including (but not limited to) information about governance, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, health, environment, and climate.

Recent years have seen numerous media development and media support activities carried out by both local and international organizations, throughout Nigeria. However, as this report explains, there is still a long way to go when it comes to addressing each of the above challenges. In line with this, **Section VI** of this report proposes potential areas of focus for future media development and support activities in the country, followed by a Conclusion (**Section VII**), which further highlights the priority needs of media in the country, as they were identified during Internews' assessment process — which was focused on the current needs and challenges of the media in Nigeria, and carried out between November 2022 and March 2023.

# II. OVERVIEW OF THE MEDIA LANDSCAPE IN NIGERIA

As the most populous country in Africa — home to more than 223 million people, as of 2023<sup>1</sup> — Nigeria is well-known as having one of the most rich and vibrant media landscapes on the continent. In past years, broadcasting has grown from being solely government-owned to include private ownership, and most recently community broadcasting. All 36 states in the country now run at least one radio network and a TV station<sup>2</sup> — and nationwide, there are hundreds of radio stations and terrestrial TV networks, as well as cable and direct-to-home satellite offerings. Additionally, there are more than 100 national and local press titles, some of them state-owned.<sup>3</sup>

## 2.1 RADIO

The history of radio in Nigeria began in 1932-33, with the British colonial government's introduction of the radio distribution service (RDS), which fell under the Department of Post and Telegraph in Lagos. With the RDS, programs of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) could be relayed to audiences in Nigeria through a series of loudspeakers.<sup>4</sup> Two years later, the RDS was changed to a diffusion service — making it possible for licensed receivers in Lagos to not only rebroadcast BBC programming, but also include local announcements and information about happenings in Nigeria.<sup>5</sup> More local content became possible as radio stations were established in the cities of Ibadan (in 1939) and Kano (in 1944), and by 1951, the National Broadcasting Service (NBS) was created — leading to the establishment of several regional radio stations, including those in Kaduna, Jos, Enugu, Ilorin, and Maiduguri.<sup>6</sup>

The independence of Nigeria from Britain in 1960 further supported the development of local radio broadcasting, and the number of regional radio stations grew as new states were created within the country. However, the right to own, control, and operate radio stations in Nigeria was reserved strictly for the various governments (federal, regional, and state) up until 1992, when the government of Ibrahim Babangida promulgated the Deregulation of Broadcast Decree No. 38, and created the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC),<sup>7</sup> which finally allowed for private individuals to own both radio and television stations. A year later, the first set of licenses was handed out by the NBC, and the first privately owned, independent radio station (Ray Power FM) went on air in September 1994.<sup>8</sup>

In 2002, a revised edition of the Nigeria Broadcasting Code made provision, for the first time, for community broadcasting. Although the Code outlined two categories for community broadcasting — specifically, campus broadcasting and rural broadcasting — it would still be years before any community radio station (and especially non-university radio station) would be given a license.<sup>9</sup> Even now, the number of community broadcasters remains limited, which critics say is largely due to prohibitive licensing / licensing renewal costs<sup>10</sup> and challenges posed by legislation (which, for years, has required communities and community-based organizations to register under a trusteeship with the Corporate Affairs Commission and become incorporated as limited liability companies, before qualifying to apply for community broadcast licenses).<sup>11 12</sup>

Today, there are more than 100 licensed radio stations across Nigeria — with the majority still owned and operated by federal and state governments. According to the 2021 ‘mediafacts Book’ (an annual ratings report produced by mediareach OMP),<sup>13</sup> the licensed stations include:

- 1 federal network (the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria or FRCN, with 41 individual stations)
- Over 63 state-owned stations (on both AM & FM bands)
- Over 60 privately-owned stations
- 27 campus radio stations
- 9 community stations

These stations broadcast news and entertainment programming in a wide variety of languages, playing a crucial role in ensuring access to information for citizens, in a country with more than 500 indigenous languages — that is in addition to English (the official language), Pidgin, and the widely spoken languages of Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo/Ibo, and Fulani. A detailed list of radio stations across Nigeria, categorized by location and dominant language of broadcast, can be found in **Annex 1** of this report.

According to findings from a Media Measurement study<sup>14</sup> conducted by GeoPoll during 2017 and 2018, the top three radio stations — based on audience share at the time — included Ray Power FM (Nigeria’s first private radio station, which now has over 20 substations spread out around the country covering news and other programming), Wazobia FM (known as the first station to broadcast programs in Pidgin English), and Cool FM (which airs interviews, national news, sports, music, and other programming). Three of these top 10 stations (specifically Wazobia FM, Cool FM, and Nigeria Info FM) are owned by a single individual, a Lebanese businessman named Amin Moussalli. Meanwhile, the leading Ray Power FM (along with over 20 other radio and TV stations, located nationwide) is owned by Nigerian businessman and politician, Raymond Dokpesi.<sup>15</sup>



**Table 1:** Nigeria Radio Audience Share\*

Station	Q3, 2017*	Q4, 2017†	Q1, 2018*	Type of Station (Year of Launch)
Ray Power FM	8%	8%	8%	Private station (1994)
Wazobia FM	8%	8%	7%	Private Pidgin English station (2007)
Cool FM	6%	8%	7%	Private station (1998)
Splash FM	3%	3%	3%	Private station (2007)
Adaba FM	3%	3%	3%	Private station (2008)
Nigeria Info FM	--	4%	--	Private network of talk radio stations (2011)
Rhythm FM	--	3%	--	Private music-oriented station (1997)
Radio Lagos	--	3%	--	State-owned radio station (1977)
BBC Radio	--	3%	--	BBC World Service, including local language service
Brila FM	--	3%	--	Sports radio station (2002)
Others	--	54%	--	--

\* **Source:** GeoPoll, Nigeria Quarter 1 2018: Radio &TV Audience Ratings Report

† **Source:** GeoPoll, Nigeria Quarter 4 2017: Radio & TV Audience Ratings Report



Photo credit: Ugwu Samuel via Unsplash

In 2014, a Broadcasting Board of Governors Gallup survey showed that (despite the growth of new and online media) radio had continued to maintain its status as the dominant news platform in Nigeria, with 77.4% of people overall and more than seven in 10 across all major demographic groups saying that they listen to the radio for news at least weekly.<sup>16</sup> More

recently, in 2020 — a year marked by the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, widespread lockdowns, and global media disruption — radio continued to serve as a top source of news, information, and entertainment for communities in Nigeria, as is illustrated in **Table 2**, below.

**Table 2:** Reach of Media by Region in 2020

Media Type	Total	Lagos	South East	South South	South West	North Central	North East	North West
Radio	81%	91%	84%	78%	91%	74%	70%	81%
TV	75%	94%	80%	64%	92%	68%	76%	70%
Cable (Pay TV)	32%	53%	50%	31%	22%	38%	19%	23%
Internet	47%	64%	77%	63%	50%	51%	32%	26%
Press	21%	17%	39%	20%	27%	17%	16%	15%
Magazine	22%	10%	61%	29%	26%	14%	17%	10%
Cinema	5%	3%	10%	7%	2%	4%	0%	4%
<b>Total</b>	169,741,387	13,386,817	19,502,026	25,011,394	22,102,418	24,598,422	22,591,902	42,620,408

**Source:** 2020 MediaFacts West and Central Africa & AMPS 2020

**Note:** Reach of TV, Radio & Press was computed using last one week; Internet, Cinema & Magazine was computer using last one month

Today, media experts continue to reference radio as being “a key source of information”<sup>17</sup> and “the most important source of news” (along with TV)<sup>18</sup> for populations across Nigeria. Even among Internet users, radio remains relevant — in 2022, the Our Digital News Report survey showed that at least 37.3% of internet users in Nigeria, aged 16 to 64, said they tune in to listen to online broadcast versions of radio shows or stations each week.<sup>19</sup>

*“Radio is king, and a go-to for most Nigerians,”* explains Babatunde Okunlola, who serves as Head of Programs and Content for Diamond FM, in Osun State. *“This is because of literacy reasons, economic reasons, and also electricity challenges. TV [because it relies on electricity and is more expensive to own a television or cable subscription] is a secondary choice, and print outlets are becoming less popular, particularly as social media becomes more popular — because it’s expensive to print, so printed options are becoming more and more limited. For example, in my State, there is no major print media pulling its weight that is not online — and many are even phasing out their physical printing altogether.”*

However, despite radio’s widespread popularity, affordability, and capacity to bridge the literacy gap, many radio stations still struggle to make ends meet — and receive a fraction of the money that is spent on advertising through Cable TV in the country each year. According to the [2021 mediafacts Book](#) and [MediaTrak](#) (a Nigerian media monitoring agency), a total of

18.4 billion Naira (worth approximately 44.6 million USD, on December 31, 2021) was spent on advertising through radio in 2021 — compared to 118.4 billion Naira (or 287.3 million USD) spent on advertising through Cable TV during the same period. There are also considerable disparities regarding the amount of money spent on radio advertising, when comparing region by region (and taking into consideration the population of each region), as seen in **Table 3**, below. At a glance, it is easy to see that the North West and North East zones receive the least amount of radio advertising money, despite having two of the largest populations — likely due to socioeconomic factors, as some of the poorest and most insecure states are located within these geopolitical zones.<sup>20</sup>

**Table 3:** Dispersion of Radio Advertising Expenditures by Geopolitical Zones in 2021

Zones	Value of Advertising (Billions of ₦)*	Dispersion of Advertising (%)*	Population† (2016 Projection)	% of National Population† (based on 2016 Projection)
Lagos	6.9	37.6%	12,550,598	6.5%
South West (minus Lagos)	2.0	10.9%	25,706,662	13.3%
South South	3.0	16.5%	28,829,288	14.9%
South East	2.0	11.0%	21,955,414	11.3%
North Central	2.6	13.9%	29,252,408	15.2%
North West	1.4	7.8%	48,942,307	25.3%
North East	0.4	2.3%	26,263,866	13.5%
Total	18.4	100%	193,392,517 §	100%

\* **Source:** 2021 mediafacts Book & MediaTrak

† **Source:** 2021 mediafacts Book & National Bureau of Statistics

§ **Note:** This is the Total Population as projected for 2016 by the National Bureau of Statistics, despite it differing slightly from the overall sum of the projected population of each zone, when added together.

Based on consultations with various media experts across the country, some of the biggest challenges noted for private and community / campus radio stations in Nigeria include unreliable and expensive power supply,<sup>21</sup> equipment maintenance, difficulties in retaining (and paying) qualified personnel, expensive fees associated with broadcast licensing and license renewal, funding challenges, and a widespread lack of business management skills — necessary for individual stations to ensure sustainability.

As Diamond FM’s Babatunde Okunlola explains: *“There is a need [for stations to better] understand audiences and markets, and how to ensure their financial sustainability. How do they tap into development funding, for example? How do they partner with institutions or organizations, to secure funding to then do quality programming and support their outlet?”*

*How do they build partnerships? There is so much opportunity, but so many outlets don't understand how to [benefit from] it."*

Meanwhile, in terms of government (federal and state) owned media — including radio — the issue of public trust is a serious concern. According to an Edelman Trust Barometer survey conducted in 2020, only 55% of Nigerians polled said they trusted the government, and expert panelists discussing the survey results highlighted widespread concerns over a lack of transparency surrounding government activities, “information hoarding” by government officials, and a refusal by government to engage with citizens who want to know more about its activities (something which could be done through state media).<sup>22</sup> Meanwhile, a 2022 study conducted by the Reuters Institute / University of Oxford found that privately owned local media, as well as BBC News, ranked considerably higher in terms of audience trust than state-sponsored media, such as the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) and the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA).<sup>23</sup>

## 2.2 PRINT MEDIA

According to the 2021 mediafacts Book, there are over 130 newspapers in Nigeria, including dailies, midweek/weekend installments, and titles focused on sports and business. This is in addition to the more than 70 magazines in circulation, which include weeklies and monthlies, and thematic publications focused on news, entertainment, business, and sports.<sup>24</sup>

Although the very first Nigerian newspaper is said to have been a local language (Yoruba) newspaper, called *Iwe Irohin*, established in 1859, most of today's leading publications appear in English. Nevertheless, indigenous language newspapers — including standalone publications and pullout-style inserts in Yoruba, Hausa, and Igbo — continue to be available, and play an important role in serving audiences and ensuring diversity among the Nigerian print media.<sup>25</sup>

**Table 4**, below, provides details (including the year of first publication, publishing frequency, and circulation) for some of the most popular national newspapers in Nigeria — each of which also hosts a lively and frequently updated website, to reach online audiences both inside and outside of the country.

**Table 4:** Leading National Newspapers in Nigeria

Newspaper	First Publication	Publishing Frequency	Circulation	Website
Daily Trust	2001	Daily	Unknown	<a href="https://dailytrust.com/">https://dailytrust.com/</a>
Guardian	1983	Daily	Unknown	<a href="https://guardian.ng/">https://guardian.ng/</a>
Independent	2001	Daily	Unknown	<a href="https://independent.ng/">https://independent.ng/</a>
Leadership	2004	Daily	Unknown	<a href="https://leadership.ng/">https://leadership.ng/</a>
Nigerian Tribune	1949	Daily	Unknown	<a href="https://tribuneonlineng.com/">https://tribuneonlineng.com/</a>
The Daily Sun	2003	Daily	130,000/day (as of 2011)	<a href="https://sunnewsonline.com/">https://sunnewsonline.com/</a>
The Nation	2006	Daily	Unknown	<a href="https://thenationonlineng.net/">https://thenationonlineng.net/</a>
The Punch	1971	Daily	80,000/day	<a href="https://punchng.com/">https://punchng.com/</a>
THISDAY	1995	Daily	100,000/day	<a href="https://www.thisdaylive.com/">https://www.thisdaylive.com/</a>
Vanguard	1984	Daily	120,000/day	<a href="https://www.vanguardngr.com/">https://www.vanguardngr.com/</a>

In comparison to radio and TV, print media in Nigeria receives by far the least amount of advertising money each year — with print advertising expenditures in 2021 reaching just 3.4 billion Naira (worth approximately 8.2 million USD on December 31, 2021), compared to 18.4 billion Naira (worth approximately 44.6 million USD) that was spent on radio advertising, and 118.4 billion Naira (worth approximately 287.3 million USD) spent on TV advertising during the same year. In 2021, the majority of print media’s advertising revenue (52%) came from banks, followed distantly by revenue from telecom companies (10%) and Cable TV service providers (5%).<sup>26</sup> In addition, advertising revenue for print media appears to be inconsistent — as **Table 5**, below, shows extreme differences in spending, across the four quarters of 2021.

**Table 5:** Print Advertising Expenditure by Quarter in 2021

Quarter	Value of Advertising (Billions of ₦)*	Dispersion of Advertising (%)*
1st Quarter	0.7	19.5%
2nd Quarter	0.1	1.6%
3rd Quarter	0.7	21.9%
4th Quarter	1.9	57.0%
Total	3.4	100%

\* **Source:** 2021 mediafacts Book & MediaTrak

With advertising revenue limited, many newspapers rely heavily on what advertisements they can attract — which may include ads placed on behalf of companies owned by powerful people. As a result, it is not uncommon for papers to practice caution in reporting details related to sensitive topics (including suspected crimes, or corruption) or avoid publishing articles

that may be deemed critical by their advertisers. And it is not just newspapers where this type of influence can be found. The media in Nigeria, in general, has become well known for its practice of “brown envelope journalism” — in which reporters (and even editors) receive cash from individuals and organizations willing to pay to receive favorable coverage. The practice has become so widespread, in fact, that some newspapers (even well-established ones) have been known to withhold journalists’ salaries, expecting them to instead earn a living by collecting payments directly from story sources.

As writer Tricia Nwaubani explained, in a 2015 letter published by BBC News: “[I]t is not as if their employers expect these journalists to work without pay. They just do not think that the staff’s income should come from the organisation’s pockets.”<sup>27</sup>

According to sources consulted by Internews during the assessment process, a typical journalist’s salary (for those who do receive regular pay) can be as low as 50,000 Naira, or roughly US\$108 per month — an amount which sources say leaves the journalists struggling to make ends meet. As a result, many journalists actively search for additional income opportunities, by offering to publish (or squash) certain stories, for a fee. In late 2022, the rate for a newspaper journalist to publish one press release in Nigeria — word for word, without any editing or fact-checking conducted — could be as low as ₦3,000, or about US\$6.50.

“This is paid for, directly, by the person who wants the release published,” explains Kemi Busari, who serves as an Editor for Dubawa<sup>28</sup> — a fact-checking project, implemented under the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID).<sup>29</sup> “[At Dubawa,] we deal with false press releases [frequently], as regular newspapers are actually publishing these, because they’re not fact-checking. They’re just publishing... and the journalists take the money.”

Considering this trend, it probably comes as no surprise that some of the most common challenges cited for print media in Nigeria (and newspaper publishing, in particular) involve financial challenges, lack of trained personnel, high turnover rates among staff, unethical conduct, the spread of misinformation, and a lack of professional fact-checking before articles are published.

In response to mounting financial challenges (and dwindling advertising revenue), some print media in Nigeria have recently been exploring digital subscriptions and other business tactics to sustain their operations. As is explained in the 2022 Digital News Report for Nigeria, published by the Reuters Institute / University of Oxford: “Daily Trust, a widely read newspaper, launched Trust Plus, an online subscription service, in September 2021. Publishers with already existing membership programmes include Premium Times (including access to The Brief monthly newsletter), Business Day, and Stears Business. The impact of declining

revenues and changing audience consumption patterns have also resulted in changes to how frequently some news organisations publish. Daily Times now publishes three times a week (previously daily), with Champion only publishing occasionally. Print publishers have also been asking for more direct government help, such as lowering the cost of production by subsidising printing materials.”<sup>30</sup>

## 2.3 TELEVISION

Television in Nigeria dates back to 1959, when the government-established Western Nigeria Television (WNTV) began operations in Ibadan.<sup>31</sup> As is explained in a 2021 report by UNESCO: “Other WNTV stations opened across various regions in the country, until 1977 when it was renamed the Nigerian Television Association (NTA). State governments operated their individual stations until 1979, when the federal government directed that NTA control television broadcasting nationwide. NTA remained Nigeria’s only TV channel until 1994, when the federal government licensed the first private television station, Galaxy TV. Since then, other private television stations have been licensed all over the country.”<sup>32</sup>

According to the 2021 mediafacts Book, there are now more than 120 operational terrestrial TV stations across Nigeria,<sup>33</sup> in addition to cable service providers and satellite TV stations, including:

- 1 Federal network service (the Nigerian Television Authority or NTA, with 101 stations — 81 of which were on air at the end of 2021, including community stations)
- 3 privately-owned network services (Africa Independent Television or AIT with 9 stations, Silverbird Television or STV with 6 stations, and Galaxy Television with 3 stations)
- 37 state-owned stations
- At least 36 private stations
- 34 MMDs/wireless cable service providers
- Over 137 Satellite TV stations (with key DTH providers GoTV, StarTimes and DSTV)

These stations broadcast news and entertainment programming (including many popular talk shows and locally produced telenovela-style drama series) in a variety of languages, with a number of stations fully dedicated to non-English languages, including Yoruba, Hausa, and Igbo.

As mentioned in earlier sections of this report, TV stations receive the lion’s share of advertising expenditures in Nigeria each year. In 2021, terrestrial TV stations received 16.1 billion Naira (worth approximately 39 million USD) in advertising revenues, and cable TV stations received 118.4 billion Naira (approximately 287.3 USD) — with the largest amounts of money

coming from betting sites (which spent 29.8 billion Naira on cable TV advertising in 2021), telecom companies (which spent 17.1 billion Naira on cable TV advertising), and banks (which spent 11.3 billion Naira on cable TV advertising). **Table 6**, below, provides an overview of the dispersion of terrestrial TV and cable TV advertising expenditures by region, in 2021.

**Table 6:** Dispersion of Terrestrial TV and Cable TV Advertising Expenditures by Region in 2021\*

Zones	Terrestrial TV Value of Advertising (₦ BN)	Terrestrial TV Dispersion (%)	Cable TV Value of Advertising (₦ BN)	Cable TV Dispersion (%)
National	0.0	0.1%	118.0 §	99.7%
Lagos	11.8†	73.3%	0.08	0.1%
South West (minus Lagos)	0.9	5.4%	--	--
South South	0.9	5.8%	0.08	0.1%
South East	0.6	4.0%	0.12	0.1%
North Central	1.3	7.8%	0.01	0.0%
North West	0.4	2.5%	0.07	0.1%
North East	0.2	1.1%	--	--
Total	16.1	100%	118.4	100%

\* **Source:** 2021 mediafacts Book & MediaTrak

†**Note:** Terrestrial Television presence on Network belts is reported under Lagos, contributing to slightly skewed spend amounts by zone

§**Note:** Cable stations with a presence throughout Nigeria are reported under National



Photo credit: Desola Lanre-Ologun via Unsplash



## 2.4 ONLINE MEDIA

By January 2022, there were more than 109.2 million Internet users in Nigeria (accounting for more than half of the country's overall population), and 32.9 million active social media users, according to We Are Social's Digital 2022 Report on Nigeria.<sup>34</sup> **Table 7**, below, provides a breakdown of these social media users by platform, gender, and percentage of the country's total population.

**Table 7:** Social Media Users in Nigeria, by Platform (2022)

Platform	Potential Audience that can be reached with Ads	Potential Ad Reach as % of Total Population	% of Ad Audience that is Female	% of Ad Audience that is Male
Facebook	26.10 million	12.2%	41.2%	58.8%
YouTube	32.90 million	15.4%	44.7%	55.3%
Instagram	9.05 million	4.2%	44.3%	55.7%
Facebook Messenger	4.05 million	1.9%	38.3%	61.7%
LinkedIn	6.30 million	2.9%	33.3%	66.7%
Snapchat	9.50 million	4.4%	52.1%	46.1%
Twitter	325.4 thousand	0.2%	Not Available	Not Available

**Source:** Data Reportal, Digital 2022 Report: Nigeria

In reaction to the growing use of Internet, and to ensure ongoing relevance and audience reach (both nationally and internationally), many of Nigeria's media outlets have created websites and social media accounts, where they regularly share news, information, and entertainment for audiences. With the term "news" being the fourth most-googled word in Nigeria for all of 2021, it makes sense that a number of local and/or locally-focused news websites rank among the most-visited websites in Nigeria — demonstrating an overwhelming interest among the public to stay informed. Some of the top-ranked news websites in Nigeria include.<sup>35</sup>

- [punchng.com](http://punchng.com) — the website for The Punch daily newspaper, which received 8.75 million total visits in the month of November 2021
- [saharareporters.com](http://saharareporters.com) — the website for Sahara Reporters (a New York-based online community of international reporters and social advocates — including Nigerians in the diaspora — posting commentaries, features, and news reports from a Nigerian-African perspective), which received 4.83 million total visits in the month of November 2021
- [dailypost.ng](http://dailypost.ng) — the website for the Daily Post newspaper, based in Lagos, which was ranked as the 13th most-visited website in Nigeria during the month of December

2021, by Alexa

Additionally, many of the social media pages hosted by Nigerian news outlets have garnered large followings. Examples of social media “follower” reach for some of Nigeria’s top news outlets can be found in **Table 8** below.

**Table 8:** Social media follower reach for Nigerian news outlets\*

Media Outlet	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
Legit.ng	<a href="#">6,406,516</a>	<a href="#">1,009,126</a>	<a href="#">588,495</a>
Pulse.ng	<a href="#">5,729,085</a>	<a href="#">1,148,014</a>	<a href="#">4,532,935</a>
Premium Times	<a href="#">1,474,791</a>	<a href="#">2,032,123</a>	<a href="#">290,075</a>
Daily Post	<a href="#">1,065,200</a>	<a href="#">2,170,854</a>	<a href="#">4,447</a>
The Punch	<a href="#">3,949,067</a>	<a href="#">5,980,882</a>	<a href="#">1,092,878</a>
Vanguard	<a href="#">3,780,856</a>	<a href="#">4,127,516</a>	<a href="#">461,421</a>
Sahara Reporters	<a href="#">3,764,507</a>	<a href="#">4,855,218</a>	<a href="#">1,058,941</a>

\* **Note:** All numbers captured on February 3, 2023

Although Facebook remains the most popular social media platform used for news in Nigeria, the variety of platforms being utilized for news is continuing to diversify. According to a 2022 survey conducted on digital news in Nigeria by Reuters Institute / University of Oxford: “Facebook (62%) and WhatsApp (60%) are still the dominant social networks used for news, but Telegram (26%) is gaining in popularity, with adoption in Nigeria leading the list of countries surveyed. The short video sharing platform TikTok is also seeing take-up among both mainstream and new media outlets, with Pulse Nigeria and Channels TV having over 804,000 and 26,400 TikTok followers respectively.”<sup>36</sup>

The rise of Internet usage across Nigeria has also led to a growing ‘blog’ scene — with many writers and even experienced journalists starting up their own independent blogs and/or news and information websites. While many of the most popular blogs in Nigeria (such as [BellaNaija](#) and [Lindalkeji](#)) focus mainly on celebrity gossip, entertainment news, and/or lifestyle topics, there are also bloggers who focus on featuring a wider range of news-related topics. One example is [Chude Jideonwo](#), a Lagos-based lawyer and journalist turned blogger/talk show host, who co-founded the extremely popular [YNaija](#) blog back in 2010. While YNaija has been able to grow exponentially since then (to the point where the Y! brand now also includes a TV show, a radio show, and a print magazine)<sup>37</sup> — and, due to its popularity, has the ability to attract a wide range of sponsored content, advertising, and marketing income<sup>38</sup> — the majority of bloggers in Nigeria struggle to turn a profit. As professional Journalism Trainer and Mentor, Anselm Okolo explains: “I’ve worked with a number of bloggers who

*are former journalists. They had that news background and left to set up their own sites, so that they could report the stories they want — including sensitive stories that [many traditional newspapers] won't publish. But the biggest challenge is that their operational budget is close to zero. So there are a lot of sites, yes, but their ability to publish and investigate stories [especially those involving travel within the country] is limited."*

Likely a result of this low operational budget, many of the newer online news sites also appear to operate by relying on an “aggregator” model. According to the 2022 Digital News Report by Reuters Institute / University of Oxford: “*There is an increase in the number of new digital media start-ups emerging, with some of these owned or managed by former employees of traditional media organisations, who were laid off at the pandemic's peak. Start-ups such as AllWomen and TraceReporter usually operate without a physical office and have adopted a model of aggregating news from other traditional newsrooms like The Punch, The Vanguard, and The Nation.*”<sup>39</sup> Indeed, by copying and pasting some of the recent news stories from [TraceReporter](#) into an online search engine, it is easy to see that the same stories appear on many different sites with identical (or near-identical) wording — confirming this “aggregator” trend. However, on TraceReporter at least, no endnote or byline appears on these stories to identify the original author or identify where they came from, making it difficult to determine the source and/or determine the information's authenticity.

This points to another challenge that is commonly associated with the growing number of news websites, social media accounts, and blogs across the country, which is the impact this is having on audiences — many of whom do not have the media literacy skills necessary to determine what information is true from what is false, or successfully identify reliable and trustworthy sources when it comes to information online. According to We Are Social's Digital 2022 Report, this issue has become so widespread that as many as 72.1% of online adults in Nigeria express concern about what is real versus what is fake on the Internet.<sup>40</sup>

*“Mis- and disinformation is a very big problem in Nigeria,”* says Kemi Busari, Editor for [Dubawa.org](#). *“As we continue to have deeper internet penetration, more and more people are going online for their information ... but there is so much false information, as well as purposeful disinformation [circulating online and via social media] ... Many people just believe whatever messages they're sent, especially from people they know. They don't understand that other people can purposely push [false information].”*

As Kemi explains, there are currently a number of organizations and projects dedicated to fact-checking in Nigeria — including Dubawa, as well as the [FactCheckHub](#), [Africa Check](#), and the Nigerian Fact Checkers Coalition.<sup>41</sup> Some of the bigger newsrooms, he says, have

also established their own in-house fact-checking desks, after receiving initial training and/or fellowships from these organizations. Still, he says, *“Nigeria is a very big country. We have several languages. One approach is never enough... There is a need for innovation in this area, to push media literacy, to incorporate it in school curriculums, in different languages. We are doing all of this currently, but we need more.”*

In terms of online advertising and marketing, recent projections by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) have shown that the money spent on internet ads in Nigeria each year is likely to remain lower than the amount spent on both TV / Video ads and Out Of Home advertising (which includes ads on billboards, posters, benches, etc.), for some years to come. In 2020, PwC predicted that approximately 20.5% of Nigeria’s total advertising revenue (of \$483 million or ₦193 billion) would be spent on Internet ads. However, by the end of 2023, PwC also predicted that internet advertisement in Nigeria will outperform TV ads in terms of net additions, signifying that internet is indeed on the path to gaining a greater portion of all advertising income in future.<sup>42</sup>

## 2.5 CINEMA

While this assessment did not go into detail regarding the film production or cinema industry in Nigeria, suffice it to say that ‘Nollywood’ (a name commonly used to refer to the Nigerian film industry) is widely considered to be the most prolific and quickly growing film industry in Africa — with about 2,500 films being made each year. According to a report published by UNESCO in 2021, the film industry in Nigeria currently employs over a million people, *“who work directly or indirectly across the exhibition, distribution and production subsectors.”*<sup>43</sup>

As the UNESCO report further explains: *“The sector is supervised by the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture. Under the ministry, film production, distribution and exhibition are overseen by the National Film and Video Censors Board (NFVCB), while television broadcasting is regulated by the National Broadcasting Commission. The Nigerian Film Corporation (NFC) is a government parastatal focused on the production of documentaries, educational materials, and archiving, and has recently been considered for commercialization by the federal government.”*

Also noteworthy is the fact that two states in Nigeria — Lagos (as the hub of Nollywood) and Kano (as the home of ‘Kannywood’ or Hausa-language cinema) — have their own state Censors Boards. In Lagos, the board works with the NFVCB in implementing its regulations in terms of the fight against piracy, as well as licensing exhibition centers. Meanwhile, Kano’s board is more focused on censoring films in line with the state’s religious code.<sup>44</sup>

Piracy is one of the biggest challenges for film creators and Intellectual Property (IP) owners in Nigeria. It is estimated that Nigeria lost US\$3 billion in revenue from creative works in 2019 alone, due to digital piracy<sup>45</sup> — despite IPs being protected under national copyright laws and regulated by the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC).<sup>46</sup> Due to growing challenges and complexities in this area (brought on by digitalization), the Nigerian Senate passed a new bill in 2022, aimed at strengthening copyright laws in the country.<sup>47</sup>

# III. MEDIA AND INFORMATION

## ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Across the board, experts agree that the Nigerian media sector faces serious challenges when it comes to issues of mis/disinformation, hate speech, and unethical behavior amongst practitioners. They agree that more needs to be done to address these issues and improve the overall quality of news and information available to the public.

However, many also make a point of lamenting what they describe as recently increased efforts by the Government to “control the Internet” and “limit what topics can and cannot be discussed or broadcast about” by media in the country. As one media practitioner explained: *“I’ve been warned many times by Government, don’t touch the topic of kidnapping, don’t touch national security issues. Next, they say we can’t talk about the Central Bank and its issues... They seem to be getting more and more aggressive in ‘what we can’t talk about’, ever expanding the definition of what falls under ‘the interest of national security.’”*

As part of an interview published in October 2021,<sup>48</sup> the National President for the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Chris Isiguzo cited “government censorship” as being one of the key challenges for journalists in Nigeria — who must deal with bodies such as the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) and Nigerian Press Council (NPC) regularly, as part of their job. And according to Digital News Reports published by the Reuters Institute / University of Oxford in 2021<sup>49</sup> and 2022,<sup>50</sup> “[r]elations between the media and the government are often difficult” and “fractious” in Nigeria — particularly when it comes to the (quickly growing) use of digital and online media.

As the 2022 version of the Reuters Institute report explained: *“The government has become increasingly worried about digital platforms’ influence in airing grievances, such as the recent #EndSars anti-police violence campaign. Twitter, the fifth most important social network for news in Nigeria, was banned for more than six months after it deleted a tweet by President Muhammadu Buhari.... Following the lifting of the Twitter ban in January 2022, the government has pushed to regulate social media through the proposed National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) Act amendment bill. The plan has received significant backlash because of its potential for infringing on media freedom. Other legislation being considered includes a data protection bill, a bill expanding criminal penalties for online speech, and one that extends the NBC’s mandate to online content hosts.”<sup>51</sup>*

## 3.1 LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This section of the report focuses on four key areas related to legal framework in Nigeria — selected, because they are the most central to Internews’ work around the world, in supporting free speech, and the flow of timely and accurate information to communities. These four areas include: freedom of expression, cybercrimes, data protection, and freedom of information.

### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

In line with regional frameworks on freedom of expression (such as the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights), Section 39 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria<sup>52</sup> provides that “*every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information without interference.*”

Although freedom of expression is a right, advocates have raised serious concerns during recent years, over what they describe as “a steady decline” in freedom of expression in Nigeria,<sup>53</sup> since the passing of the Cybercrimes Act in 2015 — citing recent rights violations ranging from media sanctions,<sup>54</sup> to arrests of journalists and comedians<sup>55</sup>. In January of 2021, for example, a Nigerian news website called *Peoples Gazette* was blocked — with the managing editor alleging that the government had ordered the block in retaliation for the outlet’s recent investigation into the professional competency of President Buhari’s chief of staff.<sup>56</sup> On June 5th of the same year, the Federal Government announced the suspension of all Twitter services across the country, citing vague security concerns regarding “*the persistent use of the platform for activities that are capable of undermining Nigeria’s corporate existence.*”<sup>57</sup> Although the suspension was lifted after seven months (and after Twitter agreed to several demands from the government),<sup>58</sup> advocates say the suspension violated multiple rights — including the right to freedom of expression and freedom of association, among others<sup>59</sup> — and resulted in serious economic impacts, according to a tool<sup>60</sup> developed by the monitoring organization, NetBlocks. Additionally, in July 2022, the Community Court of Justice of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS Court) officially declared the seven-month Twitter ban to be unlawful — holding that it violated the freedom of expression of people in Nigeria.<sup>61</sup>

Meanwhile, in another example, the National Broadcasting Commission regulator announced on its Facebook page in August of 2022, that it had issued fines of 5 million naira (US\$11,984) to four broadcasters, over their reporting on security issues. Those fined included the privately owned broadcasters *Trust-TV*, *Multichoice Nigeria Limited*, and *TelCom Satellite Limited*, as well as *NTA-Startimes Limited*, which is affiliated with the state-owned National Television

Authority. The fines came one week after Nigeria's information minister accused *Trust-TV* and the *BBC* of “glorification of terrorism and banditry” in the country through their news coverage, and said they would face penalties.<sup>62</sup>

## CYBERCRIMES

The Nigerian Cybercrimes (Prohibition and Prevention) Act, 2015 is described as “[a]n act to provide for the prohibition, prevention, detection, response, investigation and prosecution of cybercrimes.”<sup>63</sup> Among others, it includes sections related to the unlawful use of computers, interception of electronic messages, theft of electronic devices, computer-related fraud and forgery, cyber terrorism, identify theft and impersonation, child pornography, cyberstalking and cybersquatting, and racist and xenophobic offences.

Since the act was voted into law in May of 2015, authorities have used the accusation of cyberstalking to harass and press charges<sup>64</sup> against multiple journalists<sup>65</sup> and bloggers, according to the Committee to Project Journalists (CPJ).<sup>66</sup> Cyber stalking, which falls under Section 24 of the act, carries a fine of up to 7 million naira (approximately USD\$15,200) and a maximum three-year jail term for anyone convicted of sending an online message that “*he knows to be false, for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred, ill will or needless anxiety to another.*”

CPJ's Africa Program Coordinator, Angela Quintal, has made multiple statements related to the application of the Cybercrimes Act by Nigerian authorities, stressing that “*Nigeria's cybercrime act has too often been used to silence journalists in the country,*”<sup>67</sup> and calling for a review of the cybercrime law “*to ensure it is constitutional and is not abused to silence the press.*”<sup>68</sup>

According to Nigerian rights experts consulted by Internews during the November 2022 — March 2023 assessment process, there is currently an initiative among local stakeholders, aimed at pushing for amendments to certain sections of the Cybercrimes Act — particularly those that are harmful to journalists and/or to digital rights. However, the stakeholders have stated that funding support is needed if they are going to ensure they “get a seat at the table”, and effectively influence policy development in the coming years.

Meanwhile, according to various sources consulted by Internews, the ongoing threat of cybercrime (in addition to digital surveillance and monitoring activities) in Nigeria remains an ongoing concern for journalists and activists, as well as everyday citizens — signifying a need for increased efforts and capacity building activities surrounding cybersecurity awareness, digital security, and organizational information security.



## DATA PROTECTION

In Nigeria, data protection is a constitutional right, founded on Section 37 of the Constitution (as amended in 1999). The Nigerian Data Protection Regulation, 2019 (NDPR) — which was issued by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) — is the main data protection regulation in Nigeria. It makes provision for the rights of data subjects, the obligations of data controllers and data processors, and transfer of data to a foreign territory, amongst others.<sup>69</sup> Additional laws and regulations that contain provisions related to data protection include: the Cybercrimes Act, 2015; the National Identity Management Commission Act, 2007;<sup>70</sup> and the National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy, 2021.<sup>71</sup>

In addition, a Draft Data Protection Bill<sup>72</sup> was tabled and reviewed by stakeholders in 2020, with the hopes of it reaching the National Assembly in 2021.<sup>73</sup> However, the Bill was abandoned after the Federal Government announced it would engage a “consultant” to draft a new “comprehensive data protection legislation” from scratch — a controversial move, that cybersecurity experts have raised concerns over.<sup>74</sup>

While the existing Nigeria Data Protection Regulation seeks to fill the gap ahead of this potential legislation, experts claim that the NDPR “*has not proved effective in the probing of personal data breaches by government agencies*” — and the lack of a federal law on data protection seems to have led individual states to attempt passing their own laws on the subject.<sup>75</sup> By October 2021, Lagos State had its own data protection bill that had already passed a second reading.<sup>76</sup>

Experts consulted by Internews during the assessment process stated that there is a serious need for increased support to digital rights advocacy initiatives in the country, to ensure that stakeholders are able to effectively engage in policy development — as well as a need for increased digital security training and support to media and civil society organizations, to ensure they can take measures to protect their data and information systems.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The Freedom of Information Act, 2011 (FOIA)<sup>77</sup> was passed by the National Assembly and assented by President Goodluck Jonathan in May of 2011, following the longest legislative debate in the history of Nigeria, which lasted over 12 years.<sup>78</sup> The FOIA supersedes the Official Secrets Act (OSA), originally enacted in 1911, which forbade the unauthorized transmission, obtaining, reproduction, or retention of any classified matter. The Act applies not only to public institutions but also to private organizations providing public services, performing public functions, or utilizing public funds.<sup>79</sup> According to the Act, any person or organization

may make a request for information (in writing) to any such institution or organization, and expect to receive the information (in the case that it is indeed held by that institution) within seven working days — unless an exemption applies. Those who conceal, alter, or deliberately destroy information requested in line with the Act may be liable to prosecution, with possible penalties including a fine of ₦500,000 (worth approximately US\$1,100), or imprisonment for a minimum term of one year. Records that are not releasable under the FOIA include (but are not limited to) the following:

- National security records which have been (and remain) lawfully classified on national security grounds;
- Records which disclosure will constitute an unwarranted invasion of an individual's personal privacy;
- Records compiled for law enforcement purposes; and
- Records protected from release by statutes other than FOIA.

The FOIA is widely considered to be an important tool for Nigerian journalists, providing vital support for requesting and accessing information held by public authorities. However, according to sources consulted by Internews during the assessment process, there remains a distinct lack of knowledge among many Nigerian journalists regarding the Act itself, and how to effectively utilize it. As one media expert explained, there are also many misconceptions — with some journalists just assuming that any requests for information will be ignored (despite having never actually submitted a request themselves), and others believing (incorrectly) that specialized legal expertise or paid counsel is needed to submit such a request. Such misconceptions point to a need for training and/or mentorship programs, aimed at increasing awareness — among journalists, as well as among activists and advocates — on how to utilize this important tool.

## 3.2 REGULATORY, LEGISLATIVE AND FEDERAL BODIES

The following is a list of just some of the regulatory, legislative, and federal bodies which are involved in the monitoring and/or control of media-related activities in Nigeria, and/or tasked with supporting the flow of information to the Nigerian people.

### THE NIGERIAN PRESS COUNCIL (NPC)

The Nigerian Press Council (NPC) is the statutory body that governs ethical standards in the Nigerian Press. It was established by the Nigerian Press Council Act No. 85 of 1992<sup>80</sup>

(as amended in Act No. 60 of 1999), and its mission is to proactively respond to the needs of the Nigerian mass media and the public by facilitating through complaints resolution, research, training and workshops the sustainable development of journalism profession, curricula and accreditation of journalism training institutions in Nigeria. The Nigerian Press Council is mandated to: uphold ethical and professional standards in the media; investigate complaints against the press; monitor activities of the press; conduct research on contemporary press development; investigate obstacles to the flow of information; and protect the rights and privileges of journalists.

For more information: [www.presscouncil.gov.ng](http://www.presscouncil.gov.ng)

## **NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMMISSION (NBC)**

The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) is the regulatory authority responsible for regulating and controlling broadcasting in Nigeria, including receiving, processing, and considering applications for the grant of broadcast licenses. NBC is also responsible for facilitating transition from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting. This includes licensing of broadcasting signal distributors and broadcasting content service providers.<sup>81</sup>

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/nbcgovng/>

## **ADVERTISING PRACTITIONERS COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (APCON)**

Originally established by an Act of Parliament in 1988, the Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON) is a legislative body vested with power to regulate and control the practice of advertising in Nigeria, in all its aspects and ramifications. APCON maintains a strong focus on its vision — which, according to its website, is to “promote responsible and ethical advertising practice, acting as the conscience of society and watchdog for the consumers; whilst managing the needs and interests of the stakeholders in Nigeria’s Advertising Industry.”

For more information: <http://apconng.blogspot.com/p/about-us.html>

## **NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NCC)**

Created by Federal Decree in 1992, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) is the independent regulatory authority for the telecommunications industry in Nigeria.<sup>82</sup> According to its website, the Commission is responsible for “*creating an enabling environment for competition among operators in the industry, as well as ensuring the provision of qualitative and efficient telecommunications services throughout the country.*” Consistent

with Section 70 of the Nigerian Communications Act 2003 (NCA 2003), the Commission is also empowered to make and publish regulations on matters including (but not limited to): written authorisations, permits, assignments and licences granted or issued under the NCA 2003; communications related offences and penalties; any fees, charges, rates or fines to be imposed; a system of universal service provision; Quality of Service (QoS) standards; and any other matters as are necessary to enforce the provisions of the NCA 2003.<sup>83</sup>

For more information: <https://ncc.gov.ng/>

## FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE

The Federal Ministry of Information and Culture is a Nigerian ministry whose function is to provide Nigerian citizens with credible and timely information on government activities, programs, and initiatives — and according to its website, its stated vision is “to build a dynamic and participatory public information system that fosters national unity, growth and development as well as sustains the positive values and culture of the Nigerian people.”<sup>84</sup> The ministry is headed by a minister who is appointed by the President of Nigeria.

For more information: <https://fmic.gov.ng/> or <https://twitter.com/FMICNigeria>

## NIGERIAN TELEVISION AUTHORITY (NTA)

The Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) is a Nigerian government-owned and partly commercial broadcast station. Originally known as Nigerian Television (NTV), it was inaugurated in 1977 with a monopoly on national television broadcasting, after a takeover of regional television stations by military governmental authorities in 1976. Although it lost its monopoly over television broadcasting in Nigeria in the 1990s, the NTA still runs the largest television network in Nigeria, with stations in several parts of the country<sup>85</sup>.

For more information: <https://nta.ng/> or <https://www.facebook.com/ntanetworknews>

## NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN)

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) was established by the Nigerian Government via Decree 19 in 1976, and became operational in 1978.<sup>86</sup> NAN is a news reporting agency, and — just like the NTA (above) — is owned and run by the Federal Government of Nigeria. NAN provides General News Service (both national and regional) as well as news photography to paid subscribers,<sup>87</sup> and the agency’s website was launched in August 2016, to offer news about Nigeria to audiences worldwide.<sup>88</sup>

For more information: <https://www.nannews.ng/>

## FEDERAL RADIO CORPORATION OF NIGERIA (FRCN)

The Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) is Nigeria's federal radio network — created in 1978, following the re-organization of the former Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation. With six zonal stations operating on short and medium wave bands and two operations centers, as well as over 32 FM stations across the country, FRCN prides itself as being Africa's largest radio network. As a public service organization, FRCN has the mandate to provide impartial radio broadcasting services within Nigeria for the purpose of informing, educating, and entertaining the public through up-to-date and well researched news and programs. It has a Board of Directors headed by a Chairman, while a Director-General serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the corporation.<sup>89</sup>

For more information: <https://radionigeria.gov.ng/>

## VOICE OF NIGERIA (VON)

Voice of Nigeria (VON) was formed in 1961 as the External Service of the then Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), which later became the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (see FRCN, above). Broadcasting programs in a variety of languages (including English and French, and later Hausa, Arabic, German, and Ki-Swahili), VON remained the External Service of the FRCN until it became an independent corporation in 1990. Today, VON is considered the official international broadcasting station of Nigeria, and transmits news and programs from its studios in both Lagos and Abuja.<sup>90</sup> According to its website, VON's vision is "to become the International Radio Broadcasting Service of the first choice for anyone genuinely interested in Nigeria and Africa."<sup>91</sup>

For more information: <https://von.gov.ng/>

## 3.3 MEDIA UNIONS, ASSOCIATIONS, AND GUILDS

With thousands of journalists located across Nigeria, there exists a wide range of organizations and associations dedicated to supporting the professionalism, safety, and welfare of those who practice the profession. The following is a non-exhaustive list of some of the most prominent media-related unions, associations, and guilds present in Nigeria, along with some of their key focuses.

## NIGERIAN PRESS ORGANIZATION (NPO)

The Nigerian Press Organization (NPO) is made up of the Newspaper Proprietors' Association of Nigeria (NPAN), the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), and the Nigeria Guild of Editors (NGE). Further details about each of these bodies can be found in their respective sections, below — however, the organizations also often band together as the NPO to advocate on important issues, such as those related to press freedom, incidents involving journalists / media houses in the country,<sup>92</sup> and national unity and peacebuilding,<sup>93</sup> among others.

## NIGERIA UNION OF JOURNALISTS (NUJ)

Founded in 1955, the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) is a network of media professionals established to advance the safety and welfare of Nigerian journalists. As an independent trade organization, the NUJ is affiliated to the Nigeria Labour Congress (an umbrella organization for trade unions in Nigeria).<sup>94</sup> Its activities include organizing campaigns aimed at protecting journalists' rights, and its leadership regularly makes public statements regarding cases related to freedom of expression and journalist safety in the country. According to its website, the NUJ currently has 15,000 members nationwide, including 85 executive members and numerous officers — led by a National President, Deputy National President, and National Secretary. It also has affiliate bodies including the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), the Nigerian Guild of Editors, and the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN).

For more information: <https://nuj.ng/>

## NIGERIAN GUILD OF EDITORS (NGE)

Founded in 1961, the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE) is a network of experienced journalists who have attained the position of being editors — and includes those working in both print and electronic media in Nigeria. According to their website, their aim is *“to preserve the traditions and standards of practice of journalism in Nigeria by canvassing in co-operation with other journalistic bodies, a strict adherence to the Code of Ethics of the profession as well as defend the rights of the press and its access to unhindered flow of information.”* The Guild is led by Executive Members including a President, Deputy President, and Regional Vice-Presidents. Among its activities, the NGE advocates for press freedom, and supports Nigerian media practitioners by publishing and distributing brief editing guides, as well as by organizing professional ‘career linkage’ programs to build the professional capacity of its members.<sup>95</sup>

For more information: <https://ngeditors.org.ng/>

## NIGERIA ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JOURNALISTS (NAWOJ)

Formed in 1989, the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) is a non-profit, professional- and gender-focused association. According to its website, its mission is to build a strong and virile body that caters for the career interests of women journalists, as well as to protect, promote, and advocate on issues affecting women and children in society. Key objectives include increasing women’s access and leadership in the Nigerian media, and building the capacity of women journalists while encouraging professionalism.<sup>96</sup>

For more information: <https://nawoj.org/>

## NEWSPAPER PROPRIETORS’ ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (NPAN)

The Newspaper Proprietors’ Association of Nigeria (NPAN) is a professional body concerned with the regulation of journalism in Nigeria. According to the Wikipedia entry dedicated to NPAN, one of the association’s major functions is to investigate complaints against the press from the public, as well as to investigate complaints from the press about the conduct of people or organizations towards the press. In other words, NPAN acts as a “buffer” between the press and the public.<sup>97</sup> In November 2022, NPAN organized a high-profile media round-table event — with support from Daria Media and the MacArthur Foundation<sup>98</sup> — to obtain media stakeholders’ buy-in regarding co-regulation through a new Ombudsman framework, as well as a revised Code of Ethics for journalists in Nigeria (to replace the existing Code of Ethics, from 1998).<sup>99</sup>

## BROADCASTING ORGANISATIONS OF NIGERIA (BON)

The Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria (BON) is a broad coalition of public and private broadcasters, and serves as the nation’s umbrella body for Terrestrial Radio Television (TV), Direct-To-Home (DTH), Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT), and Multimedia Distribution System (MMDS) broadcasters. Established in 1973, BON is today comprised of over 100 members, who collectively own over 250 radio and television stations nationwide. According to its website, BON’s vision is to foster a future-proof environment for radio, TV and new media broadcasters to serve their audiences and contribute to the development of society.

For more information: <https://bon.ng/>

## GUILD OF CORPORATE ONLINE PUBLISHERS (GOCOP)

Founded in 2015,<sup>100</sup> the Guild of Corporate Online Publishers (GOCOP) was “borne out of the

*growing need to ensure that online publishers [in Nigeria] uphold the tenets of journalism in doing their jobs.”<sup>101</sup> As part of its most recent Annual Conference (held in October 2022), GOCOP made a key resolution (among others), to “strive to eliminate the scourge of fake news, uphold professionalism within the Guild and pursue the growth and development of online media in the country.”<sup>102</sup>*

For more information: <https://gocop.com.ng>

## 3.4 SAFETY AND SECURITY OF JOURNALISTS

In 2022, Nigeria ranked 129th out of the 180 countries included in Reporters Without Borders’ World Press Freedom Index<sup>103</sup> — which ranks countries based on the level of freedom available to journalists.

*According to Reporters Without Borders (RSF): “Nigeria is one of West Africa’s most dangerous and difficult countries for journalists, who are often watched, attacked, arbitrarily arrested and even killed... In recent years, most of West Africa’s violent attacks, shooting deaths and cases of arbitrary detention of journalists have taken place in Nigeria. Fearing for their lives, some journalists flee abroad. Four journalists have been killed since 2019 and there has been no serious investigation to identify the perpetrators. The major protests that shook the country in 2020 also brought on violence against media outlets, some of which were set on fire.”<sup>104</sup>*

Besides RSF, other organizations have released similarly dire assessments and statements related to the freedom and/or safety of journalists in Nigeria, in recent years. In one example, the Africa Freedom of Expression Exchange (known as AFEX) released an ‘Analytical Report on the Safety of Journalists in Nigeria’, which focused on the period of time from January 2017 to May 2019 and highlighted a wide variety of attacks that journalists in the country face, ranging from assault and battery, to arrest and detention, shutdowns and raids of media outlets, confiscation/destruction of work equipment, abductions, and prevention from carrying out professional duties.

*According to a statement released by AFEX in December 2019: “State security agents have been identified as the major perpetrators of these attacks against journalists. Sadly, the security and law-enforcement agencies do not seem interested in investigating the attacks or bringing the perpetrators to justice as there are no record of these cases being investigated or the perpetrators being prosecuted. In some other cases, the judiciary seems to be coopted into exacerbating the attacks by unnecessarily detaining journalists for civil matters*



*and where judges agree to grant detainee bail, the conditions are so stringent that they end up spending unnecessarily long time in detention: this situation affects journalists and other citizens who post what those in authority consider unfavourable to them.”<sup>105</sup>*

**Annex 2**, which is included at the end of this report, provides a (non-exhaustive) summary of some of the killings, attacks, detentions, and violations that have been experienced by journalists and media workers in Nigeria, during the past five years — as reported on by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA). Similar to AFEX’s observations about incidents that occurred between January 2017 and May 2019 (mentioned in the above paragraph), many of the incidents reported on by CPJ and MFWA between June 2019 and April 2023 (highlighted in **Annex 2**) also include the alleged involvement of state security forces — who were reportedly involved in numerous beatings, arrests, detentions, and in some cases, even deaths, of journalists in the last five years. In many of the cases highlighted by CPJ and MFWA, the journalists specifically found themselves under attack shortly after their reporting had featured or alluded to allegations of corruption / criminal behavior by government officials and/or their family members — reporting which also resulted in numerous journalists facing charges of criminal conspiracy, defamation, disturbance of the peace, and/or cyberstalking (under the country’s Cybercrimes Act) during this period of time.

Covering stories involving sensitive topics — such as politics and corruption, as well as terrorism, kidnapping, financial embezzlement, and community conflicts — can be very problematic (for both journalists and their sources) in Nigeria. Additionally, election periods are particularly dangerous times. During the lead-up to the 2023 general elections, for example, various organizations highlighted a steep increase in the number of attacks against journalists in the country,<sup>106</sup> with many of the incidents directly linked to primary elections and campaigns.<sup>107</sup>

Meanwhile, journalists in the country also face heightened risk should they choose to cover any of the myriad of security crises and challenges which plague citizens across Nigeria — which include, among others, widespread banditry and kidnapping, extremist insurgencies, a growing separatist movement, and ongoing violence between rival ethnic and religious groups.<sup>108</sup> More information about each of these challenges can be found in **Section 5.1** of this report (which focuses on *Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention*).

Despite the dangers, it is extremely rare for journalists in Nigeria to hold any type of insurance (apart from third-party vehicle insurance), and according to those consulted by Internews, there is an ongoing need for training related to Hostile Environments, Risk Management,

Security, and First Aid — particularly among journalists covering sensitive topics, and/or working in areas experiencing civil unrest. Given the high rate of turnover that occurs at most newsrooms, one senior journalist recommended that special priority should be given to providing such training to Heads of Newsrooms, to strengthen their capacity to build risk identification and mitigation steps into their regular news coverage plans and equip them with skills they can then share with others in their newsroom, on a rolling basis.

# IV. MEDIA STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPMENT

Across Nigeria, there are a variety of entities — ranging in size from small, grassroots organizations, to large international NGOs and UN agencies — that have implemented activities aimed at training and supporting media, over the past two decades. The activities implemented by these organizations vary greatly, though many focus on skills development, and/or strengthening journalists' abilities to report on specific thematic areas, in line with the guiding principles or objectives of the organizations providing the training.

Based on observations shared with Internews during the assessment process (which informed the writing of this report), it is apparent that many media practitioners and development experts feel that there has already been considerable effort made by partners to address a number of key thematic areas — including the teaching of basic journalism skills, basic data journalism and investigative reporting techniques, advanced multimedia production skills (such as the technical elements of producing/editing videos and hosting news websites, for example), fact-checking, and mis-/dis-information. As a result, considerable progress has been made in many of these areas, and ongoing efforts are already underway to continue that forward momentum.

However, the experts consulted also noted several areas where new and/or additional focus is very much needed, to support local media's ongoing ability to provide timely, accurate information to communities, and serve as an effective watchdog for good governance and accountability in the country. Most notably, experts mentioned a need for new and/or additional support in the areas of: conflict-sensitive reporting; physical and digital security for journalists, media organizations, and human rights defenders; thematic reporting skills (to support journalists to report more accurately and in-depth on key issues, for example those related to health, climate and the environment); locally-led advocacy (to further support local media organizations and rights defenders interested in taking a lead role in advocating for freedom of expression and freedom of information in the country); and media business and sustainability skills (to support media houses' abilities to sustain operations, identify new/alternative revenue sources, and improve their capacity to report independently on key issues).

Additionally, in terms of media engagement and training efforts made by non-media development and/or humanitarian actors (i.e. organizations and agencies who do not focus directly

on media development), media practitioners feel that engagements led by these types of organizations often fail to address the actual needs of the journalists invited to participate — with training events hosted by these actors often focusing more on the provision of public relations materials for journalists to be able to produce reports that “showcase” the particular organization’s or agency’s activities, and less on providing journalists with technical knowledge and skills about how to report accurately and effectively on the specific issues those organizations or agencies are working to address. As a result, many media practitioners feel that there is a need for improved collaboration and relationship-building between the media and development / humanitarian actors working in the country, to ensure that both parties better understand the needs and priorities of one another, and thereby improve future engagement and information-sharing efforts between the two groups.

## 4.1 MEDIA STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

The following list is a non-exhaustive compilation of organizations currently working in the areas of media strengthening and development in Nigeria, as well as those leading training and advocacy efforts in the country related to free speech, digital rights, and Internet freedom.

### INTERNEWS

Since 2003, Internews has implemented a wide range of projects and activities that have provided support to media, journalists, activists, and human rights defenders across Nigeria. This includes the Local Voices project (which ran from 2003 to 2006, and focused on HIV/AIDS journalism and the linkage to policy reform), the ENHANSE project (which ran from 2006 to 2009, with focuses on HIV/AIDS communication, maternal health, and education), and the currently active Greater Internet Freedom Project (which is a three-year, USAID-funded global program supporting internet freedom and digital rights across 40 countries, including Nigeria). Additionally, Internews has provided — through its [Earth Journalism Network](#) — a range of professional training, mentoring, and fellowship opportunities to journalists from Nigeria, who are interested in covering stories related to the environment and climate change.

For more information: <https://internews.org/region/nigeria/>

### BBC MEDIA ACTION

Based out of Abuja, BBC Media Action has worked in Nigeria for 20 years, focusing on issues related to governance, health, inclusion, humanitarian response, climate, and resilience. In

line with the organization's model — which is utilized across various Sub-Saharan African countries — BBC Media Action's key activities in Nigeria involve the direct production and distribution of multimedia content and information for local audiences, in local languages. Recent project focuses have included the production and distribution of multimedia content related to health issues (including pneumonia, diarrhea, and HIV/AIDs), inclusion (focusing on encouraging inclusion in society and the workforce, for people with disabilities), and COVID-19 (through special editions of its magazine shows and public service announcements, addressing COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy). BBC Media Action's partners for Nigeria include the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, ActionAid, UNICEF, Sightsavers, European Commission, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID/Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, and GIZ.

For more information: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaaction/where-we-work/africa/nigeria>

## THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING (ICIR)

The ICIR is an independent, non-profit news agency whose mission is to promote good governance by reporting, exposing, and combating corruption, while fostering a tradition of journalistic excellence through creative investigative reporting, online publishing, and training programs. One of ICIR's newest initiatives is the [FactCheckHub](#) — which, established in May 2020, aims at combating misinformation, disinformation, hoaxes, and rumors about topical issues including COVID-19, elections, health, and governance, among others. ICIR's funding partners include the MacArthur Foundation and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

For more information: <https://www.icirnigeria.org/>

## THE CENTRE FOR JOURNALISM INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (CJID)

The CJID (formerly the Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism), is a media innovation and development think tank. Its mission is to strengthen West Africa's journalism sector to promote democratic accountability in the service of inclusive and sustainable development. CJID implements a wide variety of projects, focused on journalism, accountability, development issues, fact-checking, and media literacy — with its [Dubawa](#) fact-check program providing crucial verification tools and support for newsrooms across West Africa. Its partners and donors include the MacArthur Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation,

NED, OSIWA, British Council, and Ford Foundation, among others.

For more information: <https://thecjid.org/>

## DEVELOPMENT COMMUNICATIONS (DEVCOMS) NETWORK

DEVCOMS Network is a media development, not-for-profit organization, dedicated to mobilizing, promoting and galvanizing science, public health, and social sector journalism to ensure an informed society and better policies that affect the people of Nigeria. Registered in 2002, DEVCOMS now has a head office (which includes a production studio) in Lagos, in addition to an office in Abuja, and a “contact office” in Kaduna, which is shared with a local partner, the **Africa Media Development Foundation**. DEVCOMS is a former partner of Internews in Nigeria, and has also received support from DFID, the MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, World Bank, Voice of America, National Research Foundation of South Africa, and the National Press Foundation.

For more information: <https://devcomsnetwork.org/>

## STORYMI ACADEMY

Founded in 2021, StoryMi Academy is a relative newcomer to the media development scene in Nigeria — set up, with the goal of developing world-class journalists, storytellers, and investigators. To do this, they have been developing free workshops for mid-level Nigerian journalists, designed to enable participants to better understand the global media industry and its ethics, and support already-working journalists and editors with the advanced skills needed to ensure a more profitable career, through which they can earn a living wage. StoryMi Academy’s current partners and supporters include rfi Hausa, Happy Pikin, Institut français Nigeria, CFI développement médias, and BAAINZ.

For more information: <https://www.storymi.org/>

## JOURNALISM SKILLS SUPPORT AND MENTORING INITIATIVE

Another newcomer to the media development scene, the Journalism Skills Support and Mentoring Initiative was registered as a non-profit organization in 2022, by former Internews Media Coordinator, Anselm Okolo. Through his previous for-profit company, Journalism.com Limited, Anselm has been providing journalism training, networking, and skills-building support to media in Nigeria for the past ten years. But having now officially registered his new company as a non-profit, Anselm hopes to identify donors and partners to help expand the work and support more journalists across the country. The Journalism Skills Support and

Mentoring Initiative office is located in Abuja, and its website is scheduled to be launched in 2024.

## PARADIGM INITIATIVE

Paradigm Initiative connects underserved young Africans with digital opportunities, while working to ensure the protection of digital rights for all. Their programs include focuses on life skills, ICT, financial readiness, entrepreneurship training, and digital rights. Headquartered in Lagos, Paradigm Initiative has offices throughout Nigeria (including in Abuja, Aba, and Kano), as well as regional offices in various other countries across Africa. Its partners include Internews, Google, Meta, DHL, OSIWA, and Ford Foundation, among others.

For more information: <https://paradigmhq.org/>

## CO-CREATION HUB (CCHUB)

CcHUB describes itself as an innovation center and multi-purpose space where “technologists, social entrepreneurs, government, tech companies, impact investors, and hackers in and around Lagos [gather] to co-create new solutions to the many social problems in Nigeria.” Some of CcHUB’s partners and donors include the British High Commission, Ford Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Google, and Meta — and for the past three years, CcHUB has worked with Internews on implementing its Greater Internet Freedom project, focusing on digital rights and digital security issues. Although based in Lagos, CcHUB also has offices and activities in Nairobi and Kigali.

For more information: <https://cchubnigeria.com/>

# V. KEY ISSUES & THEMATIC AREAS FOR ENGAGEMENT

Based on the findings from this assessment, there are eight key issues / thematic areas that stand out as being of particular importance, in relation to Internews' work and overall strategy for creating change. These thematic areas include peacebuilding and conflict prevention, governance and transparency, media sustainability, freedom of expression and digital rights, environment and climate, health, gender, and mis- and dis-information.

## 5.1 PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

According to an update released by The World Bank in December 2022, Nigeria currently finds itself in *"a challenging and deteriorating economic situation,"* with reforms and action needed if the country is going to be able to *"reduce its vulnerability to crisis and rise to its potential."*<sup>109</sup>

Today, it is estimated that at least 80 million Nigerians live in extreme poverty — and with inflation surging to 21.1 percent year-on-year in October 2022, as many as five million more Nigerians have been pushed into poverty since the start of 2022.<sup>110</sup> Across Nigeria, food insecurity is a serious concern,<sup>111</sup> as is unemployment. According to information released by The World Bank, job creation has not kept up with the country's fast-growing population, especially when it comes to the creation of full-time, high-quality jobs, with the potential to offer real pathways out of poverty. As a result, there is a serious concern that the continued rise in poverty and overall lack of economic opportunity could lead to further conflict and/or instability across the country.<sup>112</sup>

Already, Nigeria is plagued by a wave of different (but often over-lapping) security crises and challenges, including widespread banditry and kidnapping, extremist insurgencies, a growing separatist movement, ongoing violence between rival ethnic and religious groups, and deadly clashes between nomadic animal herders and agricultural farmers. In recent years, almost every corner of the country has been affected by violence and crime.<sup>113</sup>



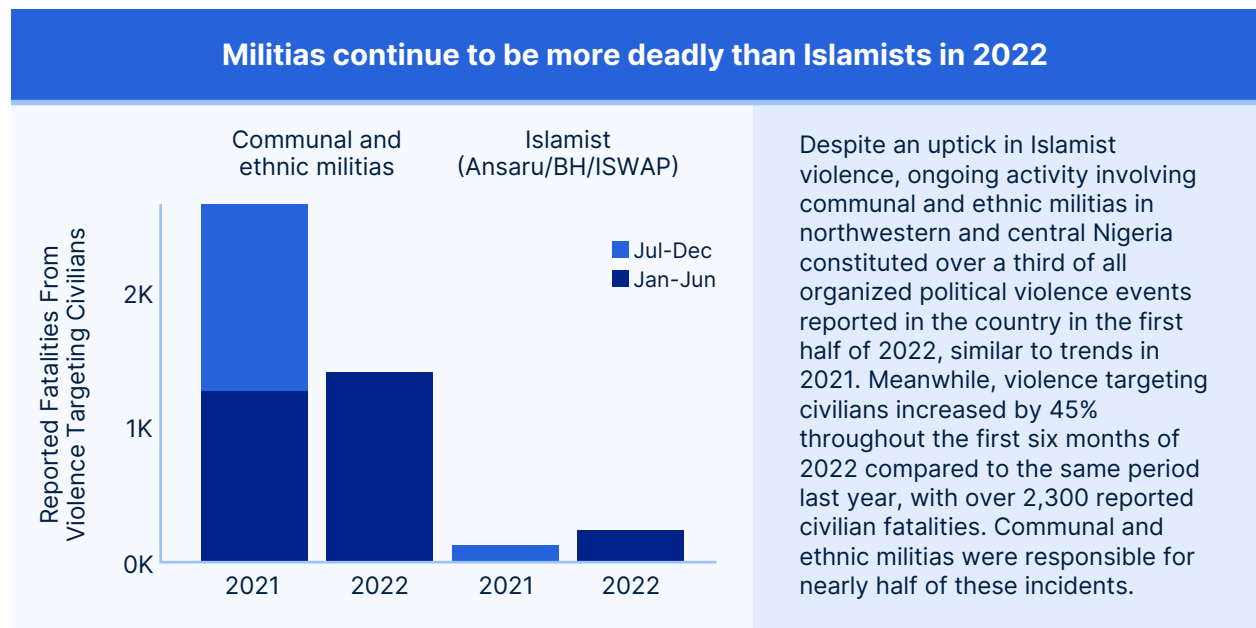


Photo credit: Ayanfe Olarinde via Unsplash

Across Nigeria, banditry and kidnapping is widespread — and often carried out by communal and ethnic militias. According to recent updates released by the security services company, International SOS,<sup>114</sup> particular hot spots for “bandit” activity in Nigeria include the Niger Delta region (where criminal groups frequently abduct and demand ransom for oil industry workers and people otherwise perceived to be wealthy) and north-western Nigeria, including but not limited to Katsina State (where, for example, 21 children and 19 adults were abducted from a farm during a single event, in November 2022), Kaduna State (where assailants bombed a railroad track in March 2022, and kidnapped numerous train passengers), and Zamfara State (where more than 700 people were killed or abducted during a series of bandit raids in the 11 months between January and November 2022). In a bid to contain the growing insecurity and violence, the government designated these ‘bandit’ militia groups as “terrorists” in January 2022<sup>115</sup> — and in April 2022, Nigeria’s Senate passed a bill to amend the country’s Terrorism Prevention Act, which made abduction punishable by death in cases where victims die, and imposed jail terms of at least 15 years for anyone who pays a ransom to free a person who has been kidnapped.<sup>116</sup> Despite widespread criticism that such measures had the potential to become a punishment for victims,<sup>117</sup> President Buhari officially signed the bill into law in May 2022.<sup>118</sup>

Meanwhile, in north-east Nigeria, a long-running Islamist insurgency has also resulted in ongoing violence targeting civilian communities, with an increase in the number of attacks

experienced in 2022 — most of which were carried out by Boko Haram and its main splinter group, the 'Islamic State West Africa Province' (ISWAP) Lake Chad faction, as well as by another breakaway Boko Haram faction called 'Ansaru'. According to an analysis published by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), the ISWAP faction in particular has recently been able to expand its operational base southward, to new areas beyond the epicenter of the Boko Haram insurgency, and closer to the country's Federal Capital Territory. For example, in 2021, ISWAP was reported to have set up new camps in the country's north-central Niger State, and in 2022, it was linked to several attacks in the north-east's Taraba State (including an attack on a Catholic church), as well as attacks in Kogi State (in north-central Nigeria) and Ondo State (in the south-west).<sup>119</sup> While recent years have seen an uptick in Islamist violence in Nigeria, it is important to note, however, that activities involving communal and ethnic militias (such as the banditry and kidnapping mentioned in the above paragraph) have resulted in more recent deaths of civilians, than violence linked to Boko Haram and/or its splinter groups — according to data published by ACLED, which can be seen illustrated in the chart below.



Source: Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)<sup>120</sup>

At the same time, in the south-east part of Nigeria, a separatist insurgency by the Indigenous People of Biafra group (IPOB) has led to increasing unrest, since the group launched an armed wing called the "Eastern Security Network" (ESN) in 2020. While the armed group has declared that it is fighting for the region's independence from the rest of Nigeria (i.e. IPOB wishes to form an independent state called Biafra), the line between its campaign and outright criminality has become increasingly blurred. A recent [BBC report](#), published in

January 2023, highlighted “a spate of gruesome killings, kidnappings and extortion rackets” in the area, which have left residents of south-eastern Nigeria “living in fear”, and which have resulted in Nigeria’s government officially designating IPOB as a “terrorist” organization.<sup>121</sup>

Although the situation is extremely complex — with many different causes feeding into the violence and security challenges across the country — experts agree that two of the factors which continue to influence violence and impact tensions in the country include the proliferation of hate speech and dehumanization (i.e., the perception of “other” people or groups of people as being less than human). Dehumanization is often present in situations involving targeted violence or armed conflict (such as the Holocaust and the Rwandan genocide), and its presence and consequences in Nigeria have been studied extensively by organizations such as Beyond Conflict<sup>122</sup> — which has documented high levels of dehumanization and threat perceptions between Christians and Muslims, specifically in northern Nigeria.

Generally speaking, media coverage of conflicts in Nigeria often fails to provide sufficient contextual and background information about crises. Many journalists and/or editors do not practice conflict sensitive journalistic approaches, and there are cases in which local media has been accused of lacking objectivity, and/or practicing partisan reporting of incidents of crisis — telling a single side of the story or elevating certain voices over others (either deliberately or unintentionally). Meanwhile, social media is also being deliberately used — by individuals located both inside and outside of Nigeria — to incite violence within the country. For example, a May 2022 investigation by the *BBC* found that a network of influential Nigerian separatists based outside of the country has been using social media to call for killings and incite ethnic hatred against opponents of Biafran independence.<sup>123</sup> These so-called “media warriors” for the IPOB separatist movement broadcast their messages from other countries, openly promoting disinformation and encouraging violence, while staying beyond the reach of Nigerian authorities.

Given the above realities, it is more important than ever for media and civil society leaders across Nigeria to understand and maximize their potential to serve as key actors in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and crisis management. A media development program that focuses on supporting these actors to play a positive role in mediation, dialogue, and reconciliation processes, while also building journalists’ abilities to report in a conflict sensitive manner, could help to counter negative narratives, combat hate speech, and prevent violent extremism in the country.

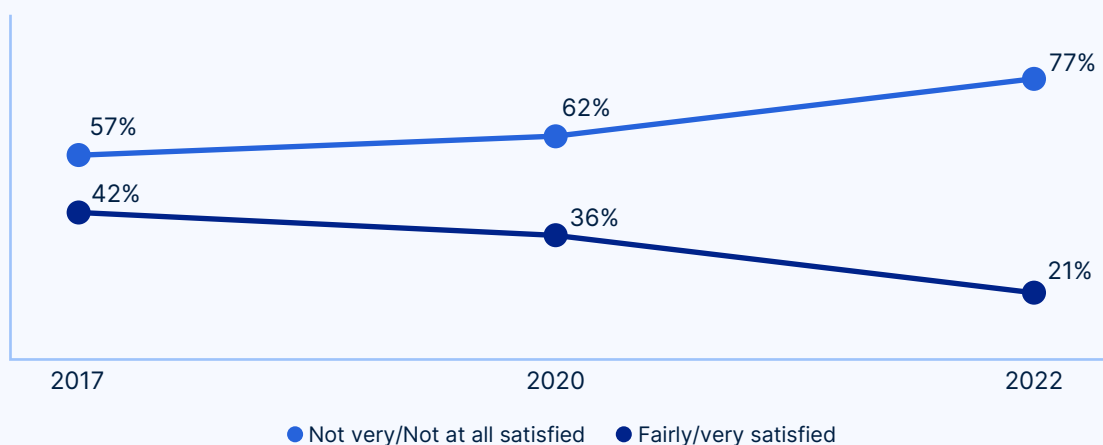
## 5.2 DEMOCRACY, GOVERNANCE, AND TRANSPARENCY

According to surveys conducted by the pan-African research network, [Afrobarometer](#), a majority of Nigerians say that they prefer democracy to any other kind of government. However, dissatisfaction with the quality of democracy present in Nigeria has grown considerably in recent years — with the number of respondents describing themselves as being “not very” or “not at all satisfied” with the way democracy works in Nigeria rising from 57% in 2017, to 77% in 2022.<sup>124</sup>

Satisfaction with Democracy | Nigeria | 2017-2022

AFROBAROMETER

**Respondents were asked:** Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Nigeria?



As Nigerians prepared to head to the polls for the 2023 elections (including federal polls in February 2023 and state polls in March 2023), another Afrobarometer survey found that citizens were overwhelmingly gloomy in their assessments of the country’s overall direction, the national economy, their personal living conditions, and the government’s performance on crime and violence — and that affiliation with the two major political parties was experiencing a rapid decline.<sup>125</sup>

Meanwhile, corruption (as well as the perception of corruption) in Nigeria remains a serious issue — and affects every level of society. In 2022, Nigeria ranked 150th out of 180 countries on Transparency International’s Corruption Index, upholding its long-standing reputation as being considered one of the world’s most corrupt nations. Additionally, in 2019, Transparency International’s Global Corruption Barometer captured that 43% of Nigerians felt corruption had increased over the past 12 months, and 44% of public service users had paid a bribe

in the past 12 months.<sup>126</sup>

While governance and corruption stories tend to make for important (and exciting) news headlines, many media practitioners in Nigeria say that covering such stories can be both dangerous and difficult for journalists — as, even if a journalist is willing to take risks to cover corruption-related stories (and wants to publish the story, due to its importance for audiences), many news outlets will still refuse to publish sensitive stories, especially those relating to corruption or fraud within the government and/or key business sectors. The main reason being that many of the news outlets in fact rely on people within those same sectors (and/or ‘friends’ of people within those sectors) to continue providing adverts and/or other support, which are crucial to ensuring the media outlets’ survival.

When asked to provide an example, one media expert recalled the following case: “In the past, there was an outlet called 234Next, which was very critical of government, and they started paying journalists three or four times what they would otherwise get, equipped their staff with equipment — and they did all this by collecting a loan from a bank. But then the government realized that these guys are too critical of us, so they convinced advertisers to withdraw their ads. [Without advertising, the outlet could not repay its loan], and soon 234Next died.”

In short: until media outlets can achieve sustainable business models, their ability to report independently and critically on governance and/or corruption issues will remain extremely limited. Therefore, any media strengthening project that focuses on supporting quality journalism related to democracy, governance, and/or transparency issues should also prioritize the inclusion of activities related to media business development and sustainability. Only with this type of holistic and multi-pronged support can independent and objective journalism be considered as a realistic (and sustainable) output.

## 5.3 MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY

As was highlighted in **Section II** of this report, which focused on providing an *Overview of the Media Landscape in Nigeria*, one of the biggest challenges faced by media outlets across the country relates to business development and sustainability. Independent media outlets face a wide range of financial-related challenges, which impact their ability to maintain operations, to pay and retain qualified staff, to obtain and service necessary production and broadcast equipment, and to report independently and objectively on issues of importance to their communities.

Based on Internews' assessment, some of the most widespread challenges identified in this area include the following: prohibitive licensing and licensing renewal costs, expensive printing costs, unreliable and costly electricity supply, limited or dwindling advertising revenue (especially when it comes to advertising revenue that comes without any 'strings attached', which may impact the outlet's ability to report independently on key issues), challenges in obtaining loans and/or other financing (again, especially financing which does not come at the cost of independent reporting), and — perhaps most importantly — an overall lack of strong business management skills.

Quality, independent, and objective journalism — that is journalism which provides citizens with the information they need to make the best possible decisions about their lives, their communities, and their governments — is only viable in the long-term if media houses are capable of developing (and continuously adapting) strong business models, which enable financial sustainability and support the independence of both the institution and its individual reporters. In line with this, any media strengthening program that focuses on supporting independent journalism in Nigeria should also aim to strengthen both the short- and long-term sustainability of independent media outlets in the country. This could include activities to minimize immediate operating costs (such as the introduction of solar systems and/or the provision of specialized, cost-effective 'mobile journalism' production kits), as well as activities to strengthen the overall business management skills of independent news outlets, thereby improving their abilities to innovate and develop new business models, continuously identify new channels of monetization and new revenue streams, and support their journalistic programs, moving forward.

## 5.4 FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

In **Section 3.1** of this report (related to 'legal and regulatory framework' in Nigeria), considerable attention is given to issues surrounding freedom of expression in Nigeria, as well as to legislation on cybercrimes, data protection, and freedom of information.

As is explained in that section, advocates have been increasingly raising serious concerns in recent years, over issues related to both freedom of expression and digital rights in Nigeria. With a new Data Protection Bill currently in the works, and a strong desire among local stakeholders to push for amendments to certain sections of the existing Cybercrimes Act (particularly those that are harmful to journalists and/or to digital rights), now is the time to support civil society activists, journalists, and other human rights defenders to continue and

expand on their important work in this area — which includes monitoring the implementation of laws and regulations related to free speech and digital rights, proactively engaging in the development process for new and proposed legislation, and advocating for change where it is needed most. Programs and activities that support this type of work are crucial to protecting the rights of citizens and ensuring their fundamental freedoms, and Internews welcomes the introduction of any opportunities that support local stakeholders to take the lead on tackling these issues.

## 5.5 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE

During the second half of 2022, more than 600 people died in the worst flooding disaster that Nigeria has seen in a decade. Some 1.3 million people were displaced, large swathes of farmland were destroyed, and more than 200,000 homes were lost. The government attributed the disaster — which affected 27 of Nigeria’s 36 states — to a mix of unusually heavy rains and climate change, with experts adding that poor planning and infrastructure had also exacerbated the damage caused.<sup>127</sup>

Nigeria — which is classified as one of the world’s ten most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change<sup>128</sup> — is at risk to numerous natural hazards, and prone to floods, storms, ocean surges, droughts, and wildfires.<sup>129</sup> According to analysis from the German Climate Service Center (GERICS), temperatures across Nigeria are expected to increase by 2.9°C to as much as 5.7°C by end of the century. Heavy rainfall is projected to intensify, which is likely to result in flooding events expected to impact rivers and surface water runoff during the summer rainy seasons. Natural disasters, due to an increase in the frequency and intensity of floods and droughts, are also expected to increase.<sup>130</sup>

Given the country’s extreme risk and vulnerability to climate hazards, an increased focus on supporting media initiatives that provide information related to environment and climate issues is crucial. Such support can help to ensure that at-risk populations are aware of the hazards, are encouraged to play an active role in improving the country’s overall preparedness and response to climate change, and have access to actionable (and potentially life-saving) information in the event of natural disasters.

Michael Simire is CEO of [EnviroNews Nigeria](#) — a platform dedicated to highlighting environment and development-related issues for Nigerian audiences. As he explains: “*We, as the media, have made progress over the years, in that interest has grown in environmental journalism. Because of the current environment issues — the flooding, for example — people are being forced to read [about these issues] and be more environmentally aware ... When*

*disasters occur, the broadcast media has no choice but to focus more on this, to talk to people about their experiences, their losses. And people's interest is starting to grow as a result."*



Photo credit: Abubakar Balogun via Unsplash

However, Michael says, there is still a long way to go. *"Journalists still complain that outlets prioritize other focuses, such as business, economy, and politics. They are not prioritizing environmental stories as much. We need a way to encourage journalists to link these issues to the environment, and explain how environmental issues have business impacts, for example, or health impacts, and create bigger hitting stories to raise the profile of [environmental coverage]."* To do this, he says, journalists need grants to support travel to effectively cover these issues, they need training on specialized reporting areas to ensure accurate and informed coverage of environment and climate change issues, and they need mentoring to help them write quality reports that grab their audience's attention.

Other environment-related issues, for which increased media attention and specialized journalism training could be extremely beneficial, include the following:

- Natural resource management — related to the management of exploitable natural resources such as oil, gas, coal, and minerals (a [full list](#) of which can be found, disaggregated by state and resource type, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website), but also related to the protection and conservation of the country's natural forests and ecosystems, bodies of water, mangroves, and wildlife.
- The ongoing environmental impact of oil and extractive industries, particularly in the Niger Delta region — where an estimated 40 million liters of oil are spilled every year,



often with little or no clean up response. As a result of the extractive industry and operational spills, local communities in this area face extensive air, land, and water pollution, as well as related health consequences.<sup>131</sup>

- Water and sanitation challenges facing communities across Nigeria — where nationwide, more than one in four people do not have access to safe water, and two-thirds of the population lack access to adequate sanitation facilities, according to statistics published by Oxfam.<sup>132</sup>
- Waste management in communities, and especially urban areas, across the country — where increased attention is needed to promote and encourage the safe disposal of different types of waste, including solid waste, medical waste, electronic waste, etc.
- Zoonotic diseases — which are diseases that are naturally transmitted between animals and humans, and have the potential to lead to widespread public health crises. Nigeria has been listed among the top ten countries with the highest burden of infectious and zoonotic diseases globally, and rabies, avian influenza, Ebola Virus Disease, swine influenza, and anthrax are considered the first five priority zoonoses for the country.<sup>133</sup>

## 5.6 HEALTH

According to USAID, health indicators in Nigeria are some of the worst in Africa.<sup>134</sup> Based on UNICEF data, the mortality rate for infants and children under five years in the country is 71 and 111 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively. Also, malnutrition is common with a stunting rate of 35%.<sup>135</sup> There is a significant disparity in health status across states and geopolitical zones, as well as when taking into account the rural/urban divide, education levels, and social status of individuals.<sup>136</sup>

Communicable diseases still constitute a major public health problem: Nigeria has the highest burden of malaria globally, which remains the top cause of child illness and death in the country;<sup>137</sup> tuberculosis prevalence is at 219 per 100,000 people;<sup>138</sup> and the country has the second largest number of people living with HIV globally, accounting for nine percent of the global HIV burden.<sup>139</sup> Non communicable diseases, including hypertension, diabetes, cancers, and neurological disorders account for a large portion of deaths in Nigeria.<sup>140</sup> Road traffic accidents are significant, and alcohol consumption and tobacco use are considered exceptionally high.<sup>141</sup>

Nigeria frequently experiences serious public health events, with many being infectious in nature. Recent events in late 2022 / early 2023 include outbreaks of Lassa fever, diphtheria, and monkeypox.

While media in Nigeria does tend to give considerable attention to covering health issues relevant to citizens in the country, there still remains a need for ongoing training and mentoring programs, which support journalists and editors to strengthen their public health reporting skills and continuously improve their technical knowledge — needed to report accurately on specialized health issues, as well as to identify and respond effectively to any related rumors or misinformation that may arise. Also, as emerging epidemics, such as antibiotic resistant superbugs, drug-resistant TB, Ebola, and/or pandemic flu remain a serious threat across West Africa, a trained local media with a history of trusted “public health reporting” could play a key role in responding quickly to any new or emerging health threats in future.

## 5.7 WOMEN’S AND GIRLS’ RIGHTS

According to UNDP’s Gender Inequality Index (GII), as of 2020, Nigeria was the country in Sub-Saharan Africa with the highest GII value — indicating the highest inequality between women and men, when measured according to reproductive health, empowerment, and the labor market.<sup>142</sup> Women and girls in Nigeria continue to face a long list of challenges, and there is still much work to be done if gender equality is to be realized.

In relation to gender equality, here are some recent statistics, published by UN Women:<sup>143</sup>

- In Nigeria, only 75% of legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality under the SDG indicator, with a focus on violence against women, are in place;
- 43.4% of women aged 20-24 years old were married or in a union before age 18;
- The adolescent birth rate is 106 per 1,000 women aged 15-19 as of 2017;
- As of February 2021, only 3.6% of seats in parliament were held by women;
- In 2018, 13.2% of women aged 15-49 years reported that they had been subject to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months; and
- Moreover, women of reproductive ages (15-49 years) often face barriers with respect to their sexual and reproductive health and rights: despite progress, in 2018, only 35.6% of women had their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods.

In terms of representation in the media, many journalists say that recent years have actually seen a growing number of women journalists entering and working in Nigeria’s newsrooms — with even more potentially on their way soon. As Premium Times reporter and current post-graduate student, Evelyn Okakwu explains: “*At the university level in media, we have lots of women. I am studying at the University of Abuja, in Media Arts, and my program is about 70% women right now!*”

However, as positive as this trend sounds — i.e., that a growing number of women are entering media-related fields in Nigeria — it does not yet seem to have translated into equality for women at the editorial and/or decision-making levels of the media industry. A recent report by Luba Kassova, published in November 2022, found that the proportion of women editor-in-chiefs in Nigeria currently sits at around 18% — which is a substantially lower proportion than in countries such as South Africa and the UK, which both have a 37% proportion of women editor-in-chiefs.<sup>144</sup>

Additionally, the same report also found that women continue to be underrepresented as sources and subjects included within media coverage in Nigeria — with the country “*lagging significantly behind the global average*” in this respect. Based on Kassova’s findings, for every feminine pronoun that is mentioned in articles in Nigeria, there are five masculine ones featured.

For Premium Times reporter, Evelyn Okakwu, this statistic sounds about right. As she says: “*Women as sources are super hesitant to speak to journalists. Sometimes [when I’m working on] a story, I will get three women sources to say yes, but then they’ll back out and say no, I don’t want to speak to a journalist. They are hesitant. I want to highlight women’s voices in my stories, but it’s so difficult. We make efforts, but it’s often not successful.*”



Photo credit: Fatima Yusuf via Unsplash

To ensure the inclusion, leadership, and representation of women and girls within the media and information sector in Nigeria, media strengthening activities that focus on mainstreaming women's and gender issues into the journalism sector, as well as encouraging quality reporting and programming on women's and girls' issues (including rights, equal opportunity, economic empowerment, and the promotion of female participation in decision-making processes) are all highly recommended. Activities that focus on encouraging and supporting a more inclusive media — which respects and protects the rights of female journalists and sources, while at the same time building their skills and confidence — are similarly recommended.

## 5.8 MIS- AND DIS-INFORMATION

Throughout the assessment process, the issue of mis- and dis-information continued to come up, with many of the experts consulted highlighting this as being one of the key challenges facing both media practitioners and communities across Nigeria. However, rather than standing 'on its own', the challenge of mis- and dis-information was most often mentioned as being 'tied' to other key issues (for example, the provision of accurate information about COVID-19) or important events (such as elections).

In line with this observation, it is clear that there is a need, not just to tackle the issue of mis- and dis-information as a standalone challenge in Nigeria, but also (and perhaps most importantly) to continuously develop more innovative ways of addressing it, as an integral part of addressing other key issues — streamlining it so that it becomes a key piece of media development activities otherwise focused on issues such as health, for example, or climate change, or governance. In other words: any issue for which mis- and dis-information poses a key challenge.

Thankfully, there are already a number of organizations and projects dedicated to tackling these issues in Nigeria — including (but by no means limited to) [Dubawa](#), [FactCheckHub](#), [Africa Check](#), and the Nigerian Fact Checkers Coalition. Efforts have also been made by some of the bigger newsrooms to set up dedicated fact-checking desks, and a range of different organizations have already focused on providing trainings and/or mentoring activities related to these issues.

However, it is important to keep in mind that Nigeria is an extremely large country, with an enormous population and hundreds of different local languages. While efforts have been made to combat mis- and dis-information, these challenges have by no means been "solved" yet, and they continue to pose serious threats to communities across the country. Therefore, it is encouraged that any future media strengthening programs consider incorporating at least a minor focus on addressing mis- and dis-information, as a key part of its activities.

# VI. AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE POST-ELECTION PERIOD

Around the world, local media plays a crucial role in keeping communities informed and holding power to account. Through their media platforms, journalists have the ability to provide quality news and information, and support citizens to make informed decisions, which affect their lives.

In Nigeria, the local media and journalists need continued support and strengthening if they are going to be able to meet their full potential, in this regard. Similarly, continued support is also needed by local activists and human rights defenders, to carry out their own work that is crucial to ensuring the recognition and guarantee of fundamental freedoms in the country, and supporting the flow of information to citizens.

Therefore, as part of this assessment report, Internews would like to take the opportunity to propose the following ideas for media strengthening and civil society support activities that it could implement, moving forward into Nigeria's post-election period. For ease of reference, the ideas have been grouped into six different categories, which have been listed in order of priority, based on the needs highlighted by local media experts consulted as part of Internews' assessment process. These six categories include: Media Sustainability, Digital Rights and Safety, Media Literacy, Gender Equality, Quality Journalism and Access to Information, and Research and Innovation.

## MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY

- Conduct a baseline audience research survey, to facilitate a deeper understanding of Nigeria's media market — focusing in particular on radio and newspaper audiences, to better understand their media perceptions, needs, and habits. Data from the surveys will be made available to media partners, and inform future programming, marketing, and support initiatives.
- With Internews' Media Business Unit (MBU), and in cooperation with local partners, research the business environment for news media in Nigeria, and produce a report that uncovers partner outlets' market potential from advertising, consumer revenues, and diversification.
- Utilizing the business environment for news media research findings (see activity above), provide institutional management and revenue strengthening support to partner

media outlets through formal workshops, in-house mentoring, remote mentoring, and e-learning — with the goal of co-designing improved business plans, identifying possible alternative revenue streams, and achieving financial sustainability.

- Introduce a 'Sustainable Media Fund' (competitive small grants program), to support active implementation of the business plans and alternative revenue schemes developed in the above activity.
- Provide technical assistance and equipment (including broadcast equipment and/or solar power systems) to select community-focused radio stations, to support their independence and sustainability, while at the same time delivering specialized training in community needs reporting, to ensure their audiences continue to receive critical public service information.

## DIGITAL RIGHTS AND SAFETY

- In cooperation with local partners, develop and deliver a specialized training curriculum covering digital safety skills for investigative journalists.
- Offer a specially designed combination of digital and physical safety training (including risk management and first aid skills) to Heads of Newsrooms — providing them with the skills and materials necessary to share the knowledge with their staff, on a rolling basis.
- Invite women journalists, activists, and human rights defenders to take part in a [Safe Sisters](#) fellowship program — through which they will receive training to better understand and respond to the digital security challenges they face in their work and daily life.
- Offer a series of [SAFETAG](#) digital security audits and grants to select media and civil society organizations, to improve their organizational security and/or address specific digital security concerns.
- Offer cybersecurity awareness training to high school and/or university students across the country (delivered as a message-based microlearning course, to ensure maximum reach), to increase their understanding of digital rights and online safety, and improve their ability to identify and protect themselves from cyber threats.
- Following the message-based training (see activity above), award small grants and mentoring to a select group of trained students, and support them to deliver original, youth-oriented projects and campaigns that aim to raise awareness of digital safety issues within communities.
- Provide grants to local advocacy organizations and/or initiatives that are focused on policy development and/or lobbying for amendments to existing legislation related to digital rights, data protection, internet freedom, and/or freedom of expression.

- In collaboration with local digital rights and advocacy partners, conduct an internet shutdown advocacy needs assessment, to establish the unique internet shutdown risk factors and civil society needs present in Nigeria.
- Drawing from previous work under Internews' [OPTIMA project](#) (which saw the development of a specialized set of resources and a structured methodology for building civil society capacity in countries at risk of experiencing an internet shutdown), offer training workshops to a network of activists on the technical skills they need to prepare for, circumvent, and document internet shutdowns in Nigeria.
- Offer small grants and legal guidance to activists and civil society groups wishing to conduct evidence-informed advocacy to prevent future internet blackouts (including partial or platform-based blackouts, as occurred with the suspension of Twitter in 2021).

## MEDIA LITERACY

- Partner with local-language broadcasters (such as Hausa-language TV Channel, [Arewa24](#) — which reaches over 40 million viewers), to develop and incorporate targeted story lines into already popular telenovela-style TV shows, related to media literacy and covering such themes as mis/disinformation, dealing with online threats, and/or countering hate speech — with pre- and post-audience surveys and viewer discussion groups utilized to measure the impact of the activity, and inform potential future programming priorities.
- In collaboration with [FilmAid](#) and local film production experts, host a hands-on Student Film Camp, in which participants are guided through the development and production of short, youth-oriented films related to Media Education and Media Literacy (covering topics like critical thinking, social media rumors, and misinformation) — with resulting films showcased widely, through community screenings, broadcasts on local-language TV stations, and/or via upload to social media platforms.
- Offer 'Media Skills' Ambassador Fellowships to leading bloggers and social media influencers, who are interested in developing or taking part in online awareness campaigns, targeted at building media literacy among their audiences (with a special focus on reaching marginalized and/or at-risk groups).
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Youth and Development's [National Youth Service Corps](#) (which is a one year mandatory service for Nigerian graduates), to develop a special 'Media Education' curriculum, to be offered to secondary school students by the corps' volunteer teachers — especially those who studied media and/or journalism-related fields at university.

## GENDER EQUALITY

- In collaboration with local research and media partners, collect and publish information (in the form of a publicly launched report) on existing and emerging barriers to the safe and secure participation of women in public life in Nigeria, especially focusing on threats and violence (both online and offline) experienced by women journalists, activists, human rights defenders, and politicians.
- Informed by the research findings (see activity above), offer a series of small grants and fellowships — targeted at local activists, advocates, and journalists — to support creative, community-level interventions, focused on raising awareness on the policy and legal challenges that women experience, and changing social norms around the participation of women in public life.
- In line with Internews' [Reflect Reality](#) methodology, provide training to women civil society representatives, peacebuilders, activists, and politicians on engaging confidently and effectively with the media — thereby improving their ability to field media requests, conduct interviews, and build effective media engagement strategies to ensure increased attention for issues that are important to them.
- In line with Internews' [Reflect Reality](#) methodology, provide training to journalists of any gender, to strengthen their ability to effectively cover women's participation (and barriers) in public-facing fields, and establish strategies and approaches for increasing women as sources in their stories.

## QUALITY JOURNALISM AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- In partnership with local media development organizations, introduce an FOI mentoring program, to train editors and journalists (particularly those located outside of major city centers) how to effectively utilize the Freedom of Information Act in support of their own journalistic investigations, and provide them with step-by-step support for submitting and following up with FOI requests, and incorporating their findings to produce quality journalistic reports. In states where the FOI Act is yet to be “domesticated” (i.e. where it is not yet being implemented by authorities), additional advocacy-related activities led by local partners could also be carried out to encourage more widespread adoption of the Act, and improve citizens' access to public information.
- In collaboration with local partners, develop a conflict-sensitive reporting program, aimed at enhancing the capacity of journalists to report accurately, professionally, and in a conflict-sensitive manner.
- To support the production of quality journalism by community radio stations, offer a series of specialized in-house training events and story fellowship/mentoring



opportunities to journalists working at both rural and campus-based community stations — with tailored topics, informed by findings from a rapid training needs assessment, completed at the beginning of the activity.

- Provide travel grants and production fellowships — along with story mentoring — directly to journalists (working in any medium), to support the production of quality reports and multimedia content on key thematic issues, such as: the environment and climate change, inclusion of marginalized groups, food and nutrition security, communicable diseases, gender equality, understanding humanitarian assistance, etc.
- Offer small grants and specialized mentoring for bloggers and independent online news reporters who are looking to improve the quality of their online reporting, build their multimedia production skills, grow their audience reach, and strengthen the sustainability of their online platforms.

## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

- Based on Internews' [proven methodology](#), conduct a community-centered Information Ecosystem Analysis (IEA), to map out and capture the relationship between information consumers and information supply in Nigeria — thereby building a stronger understanding of how people and communities find, share, value, and trust information (whether it comes from traditional media or not). Key findings from such an IEA will be shared widely with other partners and decision makers in the country, and will be used to inform work under various other activities, to ensure their design is based on community needs and recommendations.
- Following the Information Ecosystem Assessment (described above), partner with local organizations to host a series of Hackathon events, to offer a space for teams to develop new and innovate ideas for utilizing media and/or harnessing technology in: i) promoting environmental awareness and educating communities about the fight against climate change; ii) promoting public health services and providing key public health information to citizens; and iii) engaging with citizens on topics related to civic rights and education.
- As a follow-up to the Hackathon events (described above), introduce an 'Innovation Fund' (competitive small grants program), to support development and active implementation of selected ideas.

# VII. CONCLUSION

As stated in the **About This Assessment** section of this report, the focus of Internews in carrying out a targeted Nigeria Media Needs Assessment was to: identify current challenges and needs of the media in Nigeria; gather insight and experience from a range of actors and civil society organizations involved in media and/or key development or humanitarian issues in the country; gather information on currently or recently implemented media strengthening programs; and identify some of the most pressing information needs and information gaps present among the people of Nigeria.

This report highlights several of the challenges and needs experienced by media practitioners in Nigeria. In summary, the most pressing of these include the following (which are listed in order of priority, based on their emphasis by local media experts consulted as part of Internews' assessment process):

- 
- Severe financial and business challenges experienced by media outlets across the country — pointing to a need for increased capacity building efforts and improved skills in the areas of media business development, business management, and sustainability.
- 
- Increasingly restrictive laws and regulations, as well as government censorship, which threaten to infringe on media freedom, freedom of expression, and freedom of information in the country — highlighting the need for continued support of local advocacy initiatives related to digital rights, data protection, internet freedom, and/or freedom of expression.
- 
- Serious security and safety concerns among journalists, media organizations, and digital rights defenders — pointing to a need for specialized digital and physical security training and support, for each of these groups.
- 
- Widespread proliferation of mis/disinformation and hate speech — signifying an ongoing need for media literacy activities, which focus on engaging both media producers and citizens on issues related to mis/disinformation and hate speech, as well as peacebuilding and conflict prevention.
- 
- Ongoing inequalities between women and men, as well as the presence of barriers which hinder the safe and secure participation of women in public life in Nigeria — highlighting a need for activities which support the participation of women in public life

(including participation at all levels of media production, coverage, and management), and further build the capacities of women journalists, activists, and human rights defenders to confidently carry out their work and protect themselves from possible threats (both online and offline) which they may face in the course of their work.

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- Unprofessional and unethical journalism practices, which are often fueled by a lack of resources and/or poor management practices by media houses — signifying a need for more initiatives which provide not only professional journalism training/mentoring, but also offer financial support and incentive for journalists and media houses interested in producing in-depth, quality reporting on key issues affecting communities.
- 
- Citizens’ ongoing need for timely, trustworthy information related to key issues (including, but not limited to information about governance, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, health, environment, and climate) — pointing to a need for specialized research and more innovative activities to support the production and distribution of timely and quality news, media, and information products related to these issues.

There are currently several programs and initiatives in Nigeria which aim to support the media and/or support the production of quality media products. However, more focus and effort is still required — to support local media to reach its full potential as a provider of quality, trustworthy news and information, and to ensure that communities nationwide have access to the information they need, to make informed decisions about their lives and hold power to account.

# ANNEX 1:

## LIST OF RADIO STATIONS ACROSS NIGERIA, BY LOCATION AND DOMINANT LANGUAGE OF BROADCAST<sup>145</sup>

LAGOS	
Access 24 Lekki	English
Beat 99.9 FM Lagos	English
Best Afro FM 87.9	English
Bond 92.9 FM Lagos	FRCN
Brila FM 88.9 Sports	English
Choice 103.5 FM Lagos	FRCN
City 105.1 FM Lagos	English
Classic 97.3 FM Lagos	English
Cool 96.9 FM Lagos	English
Correct Fm Lagos	Pidgin
Eko 89.5 FM Lagos	Yoruba
Faji 106.5 FM Lagos	Yoruba
Fresh FM, Oregun, Lagos 10.3	English
Hot FM, Lagos 93.3	English/Pidgin
Inspiration 92.3 FM Lagos	English
Jordan 105.5 Fm	English
Kennis FM (Kennis Radio) 104.1	English
Kiss 98.9 FM Lagos	English
Lagos Talks 91.3 FM Lagos	English
Lagos Traffic Radio 96.1 FM Lagos	English
Lasgidi 90.1 FM	English
LASU Radio 95.7	English
Law 103.9 FM	English
Mainland FM 98.3	English/Pidgin
Max 102.3 FM Lagos	English
Metro 97.7 FM Lagos	FRCN
Naija 102.7 FM Lagos	Pidgin
Nigeria Info 99.3 FM Lagos	English
NOUN FM Victoria Island Lagos 105.9	English
Radio Lagos 107.5 FM Tiwantiwa	Yoruba
Radio Now 101.9 FM Lagos	English
Rainbow 94.1 FM Isheri	English
Ray-Power 100.5 FM Lagos	English
Rhythm 93.7 FM Lagos	English
S.M.A FM Lagos	English
Smooth 98.1 FM Lagos	English
SoundCity 98.5 FM Lagos	English
Star 101.5 FM Lagos	English
Top 90.9 FM Lagos	English
TUNGBA 100.9 FM Lagos	English
Unilag 103.1 FM Lagos	English
Urban Radio 96.5 FM Lagos	English
W FM 91.7	English
Wazobia 95.1 FM Lagos	Pidgin
Yabatech Radio 89.3	English

ABIA	
Absu FM, Uturu 101.9	Igbo
BCA 88.1 FM Umuahia	Igbo
Buzz 89.7 FM Aba	Igbo
Family Love 103.9 FM Umuahia	Igbo
Flo FM. Umuahia 94.9	Igbo
Green 107.1 FM, (MOUUAU), Umudike	Igbo
Gregory FM (GUU) 90.9	English/Pidgin
Magic 102.9 FM Aba	Igbo
Pacesetter 103.5 FM Umuahia	Igbo
Real FM Aba 99.1	Igbo/English
Rhema 93.3 FM Aba	Igbo
Vision Africa 104.1 FM Umuahia	Igbo

ABUJA	
Armed Forces Radio 107.7 FM Abuja	Hausa
Aso Radio 93.5 FM Abuja	Hausa
Beat FM, Abuja 94.3	English
Best Afro FM, Abuja 87.9	English/Pidgin
Boss 95.5 FM	English
Bright FM, Abuja 98.7	English/Pidgin
Brilla FM, Abuja 88.9 Sports	English
Central FM, Abuja 90.3	English/Pidgin
Classic FM, Abuja 97.5	English
Cool FM 96.9 Abuja	English
Eagles FM, Abuja 102.3	English/Pidgin
Greetings 105.7 FM Abuja	Hausa
Hot 98.3 FM Abuja	English
Human Right Radio 101.1 FM Abuja	Hausa
Jordan 93.9 FM Abuja	Hausa
Kapital 92.9 FM Abuja	FRCN
Kiss 99.9 FM Abuja	English
Liberty 103.3 FM	English
Love 104.5 FM Abuja	Hausa
Max FM, Abuja 90.9	English
National Traffic Radio 107.1 FM	English
Nigeria Customs Broadcasting Network, Abuja 106.7	English/Pidgin
Nigeria Info 95.1 FM Abuja	English
Nigeria Police Radio, Abuja 99.1	English/Pidgin
Radio Nigeria 1 (SW) Abuja	Hausa
Radio Nigeria 2 (MW) Abuja	Hausa
RayPower 100.5 FM Abuja	Hausa
Rhythm 94.7 FM Abuja	English
Soundcity Radio, Abuja 96.3	English/Pidgin
Urban Radio, Abuja 96.1	English
Vision 92.1 FM Abuja	Hausa
Wazobia 99.5 FM Abuja	Pidgin
WE 106.3 FM Abuja	English
Zuma 88.5 FM Abuja	Hausa

ADAMAWA	
ABC FM, Yola 95.7	Hausa
AM Radio Gotel, Yola 917 kHz	Hausa
Fombina FM Yola 101.5	Hausa
Gotel FM Yola 91.1	Hausa
NAS FM, Yola 89.9	Hausa/ English
Pulaaku FM, Yola. 92.3	Hausa

AKWA IBOM	
AKBC-2 90.5 FM Uyo	Pidgin
Atlantic 104.5 FM Uyo	Pidgin
Comfort 95.1 FM Uyo	Pidgin
Heritage 104.9 FM, Eket	Pidgin
Inspiration 105.9 FM Uyo	Pidgin
Planet Radio 101.1 FM Uyo	Pidgin
UNIUYO FM (Uni, of Uyo) 100.7	Pidgin
Gospel Revolution FM 107.5	Pidgin
Passion FM 94.5	Pidgin
XL FM 106.9	Pidgin
Paradise 105.5	Pidgin

ANAMBRA	
ABS 10,60 KHz AM Awka	Igbo
ABS 90.7 FM Onitsha	Igbo
Alpha 106,5 FM Nnobi	Igbo
Authority 104.1 FM Nnewi	Igbo
Blaze FM 91,5 FM Oraifite	Igbo
Brilla FM, Onitsha 88.9 Sports	Igbo
City Radio, Onitsha 89.7	Igbo
Gist FM, Ogidi 103.5	Igbo
Global FM 101.9	Igbo
Gospel Revolution FM 107.5	Igbo
Kpakpando FM, Mbaukwu 101.9	Igo/English
Lumen FM,Uga 90.1	Igbo
Madonna Radio 93.3 FM Okija	Igbo
Minaj System Radio 84.9 FM Obosi	Igbo
Moment Fm Fpoly Oko 97.8	Igbo
Odenigbo 99.1 FM Obosi	Igbo
Ogene FM, Awka 98,3	Igbo
Omega FM, Umuchu 101.7	Igbo
Purity 102,5 FM Awka	Igbo
Rhythm 93.7 FM Awka	Igbo
Rock FM, Nnewi - Online	Igbo/English/ French
Sapiensia Radio 95,3 FM Onitsha	Igbo
Tansian University FM, Umunya	Igbo
Uniojukwu FM, (Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University) Igbariam. 106.1	Igbo/English
Unizik 94.1 FM Awka	Igbo

BAUCHI	
Albarka Radio 97.5	Hausa
A-Umma FM Bauchi	Hausa
ATAP FM (ATA Polytechnic), Bauchi, 99.5 MHz	Hausa/English
BRC AM Bauchi	Hausa
Globe FM 98.5 MHz	FRCN
Pearl 98.5 FM Bauchi	Hausa
Radio  94.6 FM Bauchi	Hausa
Raypower 95.7 FM Bauchi	Hausa

BAYELSA	
Creek FM, Yenagoa 106.5	English
Glory FM, Ekeki Yenagoa 97.1	English
People FM, Yenagoa 93.1	English
Ray Power FM, Elebele, Yenagoa 102.5	English
Rhythm FM, Yenagoa 94.7	English
Royal FM, Agudama 95.5 Epie, Yenagoa	English
Wilberforce Island FM, Ndu Radio 98.1	English/Pidgin

BENUE	
Ashiwaves FM, Katsina-Ala 99.9	Hausa
Benue State University, 89.9 FM, Makurdi	Hausa
Harvest FM, Makurdi 103.5	Hausa
Joy FM, Otukpo 96.5	Hausa
Radio Benue 1, Makurdi	Hausa
Radio Benue, Makurdi 95.0	Hausa

BORNO	
Dandal Kura Radio International Maiduguri Hausa	Hausa
Freedom Radio 99.5 FM Maiduguri Hausa	Hausa
Game FM 90.7	English/Hausa
Kanem FM 97.7 (Unimaid Radio)	Hausa
Lafiya dole Maiduguri 108.0	Hausa
Peace 102.5 FM Maiduguri (FRCN)	FRCN
Radio 94.5 AM Maiduguri (BRTV)	Hausa
Radio 95.3 FM Maiduguri(BRTV) Metro	Hausa

CROSS RIVER	
Canaan City 99.5 FM	Pidgin
Correct FM, Calabar 97.3	Pidgin
CRBC/Paradise 105.5 FM Calabar	Pidgin
Cross River 89.7 FM-2 Ikom	Pidgin
FAD 93.1 FM Calabar	Pidgin
Hit 95.9 FM Calabar	Pidgin
Paradise FM, Calabar 105.5	Pidgin
Sparkling 92.3 FM, Calabar	Pidgin

DELTA	
Bridge Radio, Asaba 98.7	Pidgin
Crown FM, Effurun 89.9	Pidgin
Delta State University FM, Abraka 103.7	Pidgin
Demodelsnigeria FM 83.3	English/ Pidgin
Hot FM, Asaba 96.5	Pidgin
JFM, Otu Jeremi 95.1	Pidgin
Kpoko FM, Warri 100.5	Pidgin
Mega FM Udu Warri 89.1	Pidgin
Melody FM, Warri 88.6	Pidgin
Quest FM, Ughelli 93.1, Ogor	Pidgin
Ray power FM, Oghara 96.1	Pidgin
Rize FM, Warri 106.7	Pidgin
Rize FM, Warri 106.7	Pidgin
Trend FM, Asaba 100.9	Pidgin

EBONYI	
Ae_Funai FM, Abakaliki 104.7	English/ Igbo/Pidgin
EBSU FM Abakaliki 93.5	English/ Igbo/Pidgin
Salt FM, Abakaliki 98.1	Igbo
Unity FM, Abakaliki 101.5	Igbo

EDO	
Bronze 101.5 FM Aduwawa	FRCN
EBS 95.75 FM Aduwawa	Pidgin
Esan 111.5 FM Ewu	Pidgin
Hillside 94.1 FM Auchi Poly RadioAuchi	Pidgin
Independent Radio 92.3 FM Benin	Pidgin
Izibili FM, Ikpoba Hill 94.3	Pidgin
KU 92.7 FM Benin	Pidgin
Okada Wonderland 90.5 FM Okada	Pidgin
RayPower 105.5 FM Benin	Pidgin
Rhythm 93.7 FM Benin	English
Speed 96.9 FM Benin	Pidgin
Uniben FM 100.1	Pidgin
Vibes 97.3 FM Benin	Pidgin

EKITI	
Ayoba FM 95.1 Ekiti	Yoruba
Cruse 92.7FM Ekiti	English
Ekiti FM (BSES), Ilokun, Ado-Ekiti 91.5 FM	English/ Yoruba
Fresh Ado-Ekiti 106.9FM	Yoruba
Golden Voice of Ekiti 91.5 FM Ado-Ekiti	Yoruba
People Ado-Ekiti 104.1 FM	Yoruba
Progress 100.5 FM Ado-Ekiti	FRCN
Voice 89.9 FM Ado-Ekiti	Yoruba

ENUGU	
Ajasonic 102.8 FM Nsukka	Igbo
Caritas 98.7 FM Amorji-Nike/CU	Igbo
Coal City 92.9 FM Enugu	FRCN
Correct FM, Enugu 102.9	English/Pidgin
Dream 92.5 FM Enugu	Igbo
ESBC 96.1 FM Enugu (Sunrise)	Igbo
ESUT 106.5 FM Enugu	Igbo
Family Love 99.9 FM Enugu	Igbo
GO. UNI 106.9 FM Enugu	Igbo
IMT RADIO, Enugu 107.2	Igbo
Lion 91.1 FM Nsukka	Igbo
Owelle FM 99.5	English/Igbo
Prime sports FM, Enugu 104.9	English/Pidgin
Radio Nigeria (SW) Enugu	Igbo
RayPower 105.3 FM Enugu	Igbo
Solid 100.9 FM Enugu	Igbo
Soundcity Radio, Enugu 91.1	English/Pidgin
Stallion FM, Ehu 106.5 Amufu	Igbo
Sunrise FM, Enugu 96.1	Igbo/English
Urban Radio 94.5	Igbo
Voice 96.7 FM Nsukka	FRCN

GOMBE	
Jewel (FRCN) FM 103.5 Mhz	FRCN
Amana Radio FM 98.1 Mhz	Hausa
Gombe (GMC) AM 1404 kHz	Hausa
Gombe (GMC) FM 91.9 Mhz	Hausa
Progress Radio FM 97.3 Mhz	Hausa
RayPower FM 93.1 Mhz	Hausa
Vision FM 92.7	Hausa

IMO	
1Radio (Radio Oguta) 90.1	English/Igbo/ Pidgin
Darlyn FM 107.3	Igbo
Federal Polynek Owerri FM 97.8	English
Federal Polynek Owerri FM 103.2	Igbo
Gold FM Owerri 89.3	English/Igbo/ Pidgin
Groove FM Owerri 98.1	English/Pidgin
Heartland FM, Owerri, 100.5	Igbo
Hot FM, Owerri, 99.5	Igbo
IMSU STAR FM 90.9	Igbo
Megaband FM, Owerri 97.3	Igbo
My Radio FM Owerri 100.9	Igbo
Ojemba FM Owerri 94,1	Igbo
Ojimba FM, Orlu 106.1	Igbo
Osiza Radio Owerri 96.1	Igbo
One Radio 92.7	Igbo
Orient FM, Owerri 94.4	Igbo
Rock Fm Owerri 93.-9	English/Pidgin
The Reach FM 104.9	Igbo
Zanders FM, Owerri, 105.7	Igbo

JIGAWA	
Horizon FM Dutse, FRCN, 100.5	FRCN
Andaza 93.5 FM	Hausa
Community FM Birnin Kudu (JRC) 95.5	Hausa
Dutse New world FM (JRC) 95.5	Hausa
FM Radio Kaugama (JRC) 97.5	Hausa
Freedom Radio, Dutse 99.5	Hausa
Kazaure Community FM 95.5	Hausa
Radio FM Hadejia (JRC) 95.5	Hausa
Radio Jigawa AM 1026MW	Hausa
Sawaba FM, Hadejia 104.9	Hausa
KADUNA	
ABU 101.1 FM Zaria	Hausa
Alheri 97.7 FM Kaduna	Hausa
Brila FM 88.9	English
Capital Sound FM/KSMC 90.9 FM Kaduna	Hausa
Correct FM. Kaduna 94.3	English/ Hausa
FCE Zaria FM 93.7	English/ Hausa
Freedom Radio 92.9 FM Kaduna	Hausa
FRCN (English), Kaduna 1107 MW	FRCN
FRCN (Hausa), Kaduna 594 MW	FRCN
Human Right Radio Kaduna 99.9	English
Hyai FM 89.5	English/ Hausa
Invicta 98.9 FM Kaduna	Hausa
Kada 1 (KSMC) 639 MW	Hausa
KASU FM (Kaduna State University Radio) 98.5	English
Karama 92.1 FM Kaduna	FRCN
Kada 89.9 FM Kaduna	Hausa
Kaduna State University Radio 98.5 FM	Hausa
Liberty Radio 91.7 Super FM Kaduna	English
Liberty Radio (Hausa) Kaduna 103.1	Hausa
Nagarta Radio 747 MW	Hausa
Nargatha Radio 747 KHz Kaduna	Hausa
NUBA FM (Nuhu Bammalli Polytechnic Radio) 93.1	English
Queen 94.1 FM Zaria	Hausa
Radio Nigeria-1 (SW)	English
Radio Nigeria-2 (MW)	English
RayPower 106.5 FM Kaduna	English
Rockside FM, Kafanchan (KSMC) 89.9	Hausa
Spider FM (Kaduna Polytechnic Radio) 102.7	English
Supreme 96.1 FM Kaduna	FRCN
Tashar Yanci 103.1 FM Kaduna	Hausa
Teachers Radio 102.5	Hausa
Vision FM Kaduna 92.5	English/ Hausa

KANO	
Ammasco FM 90.7	Hausa
Aminci FM 103.9	Hausa
Arewa Radio 93.1 FM Kano	Hausa
ARTV (City Radio) 101.1 FM Kano	Hausa
BUK 98.9 FM (Bayero University Kano)	Hausa
Cool 96.9 FM Kano	English
Correct Radio 100.7	Hausa
Dala FM 88.5 Kano	Hausa
Express 90.3 FM Kano	Hausa
Freedom Radio 99.5 FM Kano	Hausa
Gotel FM, Kano	Pidgin
Guarantee Radio 94.7 FM Kano	Hausa
Hikima FM 103.5	Hausa
Jalla Radio 98.1	Hausa
Liberty FM 91.7	Hausa
Liveway Radio Network 107.9 Kano	Pidgin
Manoma Radio AM, Kano.	Hausa
Nasara Radio FM 98.5	Hausa
Premier Radio 102.7	English/ Hausa
Pyramid 103.5 FM Kano	FRCN
Radio Kano 1 AM 729 MW	Hausa
Radio Kano II 89.3 FM	Hausa
Rahma 97.3 FM	Hausa
Raypower 106.5 FM Kano	Hausa
Sound City FM 91.3	Hausa
Sunna Radio FM 104.1	Hausa
Vision FM 92.1	Hausa
Wazobia 95.1 FM Kano	Pidgin

KATSINA	
Alfijir Radio Katsina 91.5	Hausa
Ashiwaves FM, Katsina 99.9Ala	Hausa
Companion FM, Katsina (FRCN) 104.5	FRCN
Katsina State Radio, Katsina 972 MW	Hausa
Martaba FM, Funtua 88.9	Hausa
Ray Power FM, Katsina 106.5	Hausa
Vision FM Katsina 92.1	Hausa

KEBBI	
Equity FM, Birnin Kebbi 103.5	Hausa
Kebbi State Radio, Birnin Kebbi 94.5	Hausa
Vision FM, Birnin Kebbi 92.9	Hausa

KOGI	
Confluence FM, Lokoja 94	English
Fusion FM, Anyigba (Kogi State University Campus Radio) 91.7	English/ Pidgin
Grace FM, Lokoja 95.5	English
Jatto Fm Okene 102.7	English
Kogi FM, Egbe 97.1	English
Prime FM (FRCN) 101.5	FRCN
Radio Kogi 93.5	English
TAO FM, Okene 100.9	English

KWARA	
Albarka 89.9 FM	Hausa
Diamond FM Ilorin 88.7	English/ Yoruba
Harmony 103.5 FM Idofian	FRCN
Igbomina FM 90.9	Yoruba
Kwasu FM, Malete 103.9	Yoruba
Midland 99.0 FM Ilorin	Yoruba
O FM, Gaa-Imam Area, Ilorin 92.5	Yoruba
Okin 105.7 FM Offa	Hausa
Radio Al-Hikmah 106.7	Yoruba
Radio Kwara 612.8 Ilorin	Yoruba
Raypower 106.5 FM	Hausa
Royal 95.1 FM Ilorin	Yoruba
SBS FM, Oloje, Ilorin 96.3	Yoruba
SOBI 101.9 FM Ilorin	Hausa
Tiwa ni Tiwa (TNT) FM, Ijagbo 102.5	Yoruba/ English
Unillorin 89.3 FM Ilorin	Hausa

NASSARAWA	
Breeze FM Lafia 99.9	Hausa
Precious FM (Lafia,FRCN) 102.5	FRCN
Kizito FM 108	Hausa
Maloney FM, Keffi 95.9	Hausa
Nasarawa Broadcasting Service Lafia 97.1	Hausa
Nasarawa State Mass Comm. Dept FM 101.1	Hausa
NBS Keffi 92.5	Hausa
Option FM (Akwanga) 92.3	Hausa
Platinum Radio, Keffi 91.1	Hausa

NIGER	
Badeggi Radio Minna 90.1	English
Click FM (Ibrahim Babangida University, Lapai) Radio	English
Crystal Radio 91.2 FM Minna	Hausa
Power 100.5 FM Bida	FRCN
Precious 105.5 FM Minna	FRCN
Prestige 91.7 FM Minna	Hausa
Search/FUT 92.3 FM Minna	Hausa
Standard FM Bida, (The Fed. Polytechnic Bida) 89.3	English/ Hausa
Ultimate 103.9 FM Minna	Hausa
Victory FM, Minna	English
Zuma FM, Suleja 88.5	Hausa

OGUN	
Arystocrat Radio 87.5 FM Ijebu-ode	English
Best Afro FM, Abeokuta 87.9	English/Pidgin
Coded FM, Sango-Ota	English/Pidgin
Cowry FM Iyana Oloke Abeokuta 97.5	English
Dux FM, Arepo 94.7	English/Pidgin
Family FM Radio Abeokuta 88.5	English
Fresh FM Abeokuta, 107.9	English
FUNAAB FM Abeokuta 89.5	English
Hebron FM (Covenant University Radio Station, Ota) 95.9	English/Pidgin
Hope FM (Babcock University Radio station, Ilisan-Remo) 89.1	English
Kennis FM Radio 104.1	English
Miliki FM, Gudugba, 93.1	English/Pidgin
OGBC 1, Abeokuta 603 kHz	English
OGBC FM, Abeokuta 90.5	English
OOU 92.1 FM, Ago Iwoye	English
Paramount FM, FRCN, Abeokuta 94.5	FRCN
Rainbow 94.1 FM Isheri Ogun State	English
RCCG Radio 106.1, Mowe	English
Roots FM, Abeokuta 97.1	English/Pidgin
Rockcity FM, Abeokuta 101.9	English
S.M.A FM, Ijagun 104.9ikofa	English
Smash FM Abeokuta 88.1	English
Splash FM, Abeokuta 106.7	English/Pidgin
Super FM (Ijebu-ode) 96.3	English/Pidgin
Sweet FM, Abeokuta	English
Women FM, Arepo 91.7	English

ONDO	
AAUA Radio, Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba Akoko 90.3	English/Yoruba/ Pidgin
Adaba 88.9 FM, Ilara Mokin	Yoruba
Awawa FM Ayeka, Okitipupa 94.1	English/Yoruba/ Pidgin
Breez FM, Ijoka, Akure 91.9	English
Crest FM Alagbaka Akure 87.7	English/Yoruba/ Pidgin
Ejule-Nen Community Radio Okitipupa 93.7	English/Yoruba/ Pidgin
Eki FM, Ondo city 100.9	English
Empire 104.5 FM Akure	English
Excel FM Ore 91.1	English
FUTA 93.1 FM	English
Kakaki Ondo Community Radio 100.1	English
Music & Culture FM, Ondo City 106.5	English
Orange FM, Akure 94.5	English
OSRC FM, Orita 96.5 Obele, Akure	Yoruba
Positive FM (FRCN), 102.5	FRCN
Raypower 96.1FM, Akure	English
Sun City Radio, Ondo City 101.9	English
Varsity Radio Akungba 107.3	English



OSUN	
Bowen Radio Iwo Osun State, 101.9	English
Crown FM, Eleyele, Ile Ife 101.5	English
Fresh FM Osogbo 104.9	English/ Yoruba
Gold 95.5 FM, Iloko, Ilesa	FRCN
Great FM, OAU Ile 94.5	English
Isundunrin 101.9 FM Ejigbo	English
Living Spring 104.5 FM, Osogbo	Yoruba
Odidere FM, 96.3, Iwo	Yoruba
Oodua 90.9 FM, Ile Ife	Yoruba
Orisun FM, Ile Ife 89.5	Yoruba
Rave FM, Osogbo 91.7	English
Raypower FM, Osogbo 95.1	English
Redeemer FM Ede 103.5	English
Timsed FM, Ijebu Ijesha 94.1	English
Tungba FM, Igbajo, 90.3	English/ Yoruba
Uniq FM, Ilesa 103.1	English

OYO	
Agidigbo 88.7 FM	Yoruba
Ajilete 92.1 FM Gambari-Asa	Yoruba
Amuludun 99.1 FM Ibadan	Yoruba
BCOS AM Ibadan	Yoruba
Beat 97.9 FM Ibadan	English
Blast FM, 98.3 Ibadan	English
Brave FM, Igbo-Ile, 90.3	English/ Yoruba
Correct FM, 99.5 Ibadan	English
Diamond 101.1 FM Ibadan	Yoruba
Fresh 105.9 FM Ibadan	Yoruba
Gravity 88.1 FM Igboho	Yoruba
I-flier FM 103.3 Ibadan	English
IBR 92.5 FM Ibadan	Yoruba
Inspiration 100.5 FM Ibadan	Yoruba
J FM 95.5FM	English
Jamz 100.1 FM Ibadan	Yoruba
King FM, Ibadan 103.9	English
Lagelu 96.3 FM Ibadan	Yoruba
Lead City Uni, 89.1 FM Ibadan	Yoruba
Lead Radio 106.3 FM Ibadan	Yoruba
Life Radio, 107.5 Ibadan	English
Mutual 99.9 FM, Eruwa	Yoruba
Naija 102.7 FM Ibadan	English
Noble FM, 107.1 Ibadan	English
Ogo Ilu 89.3 FM	Yoruba
Oke-Ogun 96.3 FM Alaga	Yoruba
Oluyole FM, Ibadan 98.5	Yoruba
Parrot FM, Ogbomosho 101.1	Yoruba
Pensioners 106.7 FM, Ibadan	English
Petals 102.3 FM Bodija	Yoruba
Premier 93.5 FM Ibadan	FRCN
Prince FM Radio (Online Radio)	English
R2 92.9 FM Ibadan	Yoruba

Raypower 95.1 FM Ibadan	English
Radio O.Y.O, 756 kHz Ile-Akade (Radio AM)	English/Yoruba
Royal Root FM, 92.9 Ibadan	English
Space 90.1 FM Ibadan	Yoruba
Splash 105.5 FM Ibadan	Yoruba
Solutions FM, 93.9 Oke-Bola, Ibadan	English
Soul FM, 95.7 Ibadan	English
Star 91.5 FM Ibadan	English
Thirty two 94.9 FM Ibadan	Yoruba
Thrill FM, Ibadan 103.5	English
Yes Radio 101.7	English

ONLINE	
Crystal Radio, Ogbomosho	English
Imole Radio & TV, Ogbomosho	English/Yoruba
JMPBliss Radio, Ibadan	English/Yoruba
Orisun Asa Radio	English/Yoruba
Partytrain Radio	English
Salt FM Radio, Ibadan	English
Spice Radio, Ogbomosho	English
Wellsradio, Ibadan	English

PLATEAU	
Highland 101.5 FM Jos	FRCN
Ice 96.1 FM Jos (UniJos FM)	Hausa
Jay 101.9 FM Jos	English/Pidgin
KT FM, Bukuru 103.9	Hausa
Peace 90.5 FM Jos	Hausa
Radio Plateau   88.65 AM	Hausa
RayPower 100.5 FM Jos	Hausa
Rhythm 93.7 FM Jos	English
Rock 98.9 FM	Hausa
Tin City 104.3 FM Jos	Hausa
Unity 93.3 FM Jos	Hausa

RIVERS	
1 Radio Port Harcourt	English
Beat 99.9 FM PH	English
Classic 91.1 FM PH	English
Cool 95.9 FM P/H	English
Family Love 97.7 FM P/H	Pidgin
Garden City 89.9 FM P/H	Pidgin
Naija 92.7 FM PH	Pidgin
Nigerian Info 92.3 FM	Pidgin
Oralvault Radio	English/Pidgin
Radio Rivers    99.1 FM P/H	Pidgin
RayPower    106.5 FM P/H	Pidgin
Rhythm 93.7 FM P/H	Pidgin
Today 95.1 FM PH	Pidgin
Treasure 98.5 FM P/H	FRCN
Uniport Unique FM 88.5	Pidgin
UST FM 103.7	Pidgin
Wave 91.7 FM P/H	Pidgin
Wazobia 94.1 FM P/H	Pidgin
Wish 99.5 FM P/H	Pidgin

<b>SOKOTO</b>	
Caliphate Radio/Nagari FM 91.9	Hausa
Freedom FM 99.5	Hausa
Garkuwa 95.5 FM Sokoto	Hausa
RIMA/Royal 97.1 FM Radio Sokoto	Hausa
Vision 92.1 FM Sokoto	Hausa
Wish FM 99.5	Hausa

<b>TARABA</b>	
Bliss FM 92.5 Jalingo	English/Hausa
DVC Radio	English/Hausa
Gift FM Jalingo 104.5	Hausa
TSBS Taraba Radio Jalingo 90.6	Hausa
TSBS Taraba Radio Mararaba 88.6	Hausa
TSBS Taraba Radio Serti 97.6	Hausa

<b>YOBE</b>	
Gashua Community Radio	English/Hausa
Pride of the Sahel Damaturu 89.5 FM	Hausa
Radio Sunshine 104.5 FM Damaturu	Hausa

<b>ZAMFARA</b>	
Pride 102.5 FM Gusau	Hausa
Radio Zamfara	Hausa

# ANNEX 2:

## ATTACKS, DETENTIONS, AND VIOLATIONS EXPERIENCED BY JOURNALISTS IN NIGERIA (JUNE 2019 — APRIL 2023)

**Sources:** Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA)

Date(s)	Description of attack or violation
<p><b>July 22, 2019</b></p>	<p>On July 22, 2019, <b>Precious Owolabi</b> (a 23-year-old general assignment reporter for the privately owned Channels TV) was shot while covering a confrontation between Shiite Muslim protestors and Nigerian police, and died the same day after been taken to hospital. CPJ investigated the incident, but was unable to determine who actually fired the shot that injured Owolabi (the suspected source of fire is listed as “Government Officials, Mob Violence”). Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/data/people/precious-owolabi/">https://cpj.org/data/people/precious-owolabi/</a></p>
<p><b>August 22, 2019</b></p>	<p><b>Agba Jalingo</b>, publisher of the privately owned <i>CrossRiverWatch</i> news website, was arrested on August 22, 2019, by police officers with Nigeria’s Special Anti-Robbery Squad in Lagos. Authorities charged him with disturbance of the peace, treason, and terrorism on August 30 — following his writing and social media posts about alleged corruption involving Cross River state Governor, Benedict Ayade. Jalingo (who also served as the Cross River State Chairman for the African Action Congress political party) was detained for nearly six months — which led to the ECOWAS Court of Justice ordering the Nigerian government to compensate Jalingo for his prolonged detention and mistreatment in custody. Jalingo was acquitted on all charges in March 2022. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/data/people/agba-jalingo/">https://cpj.org/data/people/agba-jalingo/</a> and <a href="https://cpj.org/2022/03/nigerian-journalist-agba-jalingo-acquitted-of-all-charges-30-months-after-arrest/">https://cpj.org/2022/03/nigerian-journalist-agba-jalingo-acquitted-of-all-charges-30-months-after-arrest/</a></p>
<p><b>January 15, 2020</b></p>	<p><b>Maxwell Nashan</b>, a 39-year-old reporter and news anchor with the government-owned Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) died shortly after being found bound and gagged in a location 2km away from the FRCN office in northern Adamawa State. According to accounts collected by CPJ, the journalist told others that his life had been threatened, during the days leading up to his death. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/data/people/maxwell-nashan/">https://cpj.org/data/people/maxwell-nashan/</a></p>
<p><b>January 21, 2020</b></p>	<p><b>Alex Ogbu</b>, 50, a reporter and editor with the local independent outlet <i>Regent Africa Times</i>, died after being shot in the head at a protest in Abuja, held by members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria religious organization, according to reports collected by CPJ. Police initially told Ogbu’s wife that he had died after he slipped and hit his head on a rock. However, another media outlet, <i>Sahara Reporters</i> published a story on January 23 saying that police had shot and killed Ogbu — and a medical certificate released on February 8 listed Ogbu’s cause of death as damage to the brain caused by gunshot, corroborating the <i>Sahara Reporters’</i> account. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/data/people/alex-ogbu/">https://cpj.org/data/people/alex-ogbu/</a></p>

Date(s)	Description of attack or violation
<p><b>June 4, 2020</b></p>	<p>On June 4, 2020, officers with Nigeria’s Department of State Services detained <b>Saint Meinpamo</b> Onitsha (founder of the privately owned <i>Naija Live TV</i> news website) in Bayelsa state, after he was summoned for questioning in relation to his May 2 reporting on the alleged collapse of a COVID-19 isolation center in Nigeria’s northern Kogi State. Onitsha was then charged with violating Nigeria’s cybercrimes act, under the section that criminalizes “sharing messages via a computer or network system which they know to be false for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred, ill will or needless anxiety to another person.” Previously, on May 9, masked representatives from the Department of State Services took Onitsha from his home, drove him around for several hours, and detained him for five days while they questioned him about the May 2 COVID-19 report, and another article he had published. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2020/06/nigerian-journalist-held-under-cybercrime-act-for-covid-19-coverage/">https://cpj.org/2020/06/nigerian-journalist-held-under-cybercrime-act-for-covid-19-coverage/</a></p>
<p><b>August 17, 2020</b></p>	<p>On August 17, 2020, police in Akwa-Ibom state’s Uyo city arrested <b>Ime Sunday Silas</b> (editor for privately owned <i>Global Concord</i> newspaper and publisher of news website, <i>The Profile</i>) — charging him on August 18 under Nigeria’s cybercrimes act, and detaining him <a href="https://cpj.org/2020/09/nigerian-journalist-ime-sunday-silas-held-since-august-on-cybercrime-charge/">until September 19</a> (despite the fact that he was granted bail on September 10). Silas’ charge sheet alleged that he violated Section 24 of the act related to “cyberstalking” by sending a message that included the title of a report published by <i>The Profile</i> about the wife of Akwa-Ibom Governor, Udom Emmanuel. The report, titled “Exposed: Okobo PDP Chapter Chair links Gov Udom’s Wife with plot to blackmail Deputy Speaker” alleged a blackmail scheme related to upcoming local council elections. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2020/09/nigerian-journalist-ime-sunday-silas-held-since-august-on-cybercrime-charge/">https://cpj.org/2020/09/nigerian-journalist-ime-sunday-silas-held-since-august-on-cybercrime-charge/</a></p>
<p><b>September 19, 2020</b></p>	<p>A group of at least 50 unidentified men attacked journalist <b>Samson Adenekan</b> (of <i>Premium Times</i> newspaper) and cameraman <b>Offem Nathaniel Ubanga</b> (of online broadcaster <i>GeeTV Africa</i>), while they were separately covering a gubernatorial election in Nigeria’s southern Edo state. According to the journalists, the attacks began after Adenekan and Ubanga filmed members of the group allegedly attempting to bribe people to vote for certain candidates — after which, they were threatened and physically beaten until other journalists and about five police officers intervened. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2020/09/journalists-attacked-while-covering-alleged-vote-fraud-in-nigerias-edo-state/">https://cpj.org/2020/09/journalists-attacked-while-covering-alleged-vote-fraud-in-nigerias-edo-state/</a></p>
<p><b>October 13, 2020</b></p>	<p>On October 13, police arrested <b>Oga Tom Uhia</b> (publisher of monthly magazine <i>Power Steering</i>, which covers the electrical power sector) and took him, without warrant, to the Force Criminal Investigation Department — where authorities questioned him about a complaint filed by the Minister of State for Power, Goddy Jeddy Agba, regarding Uhia’s reporting on the official. On October 15, Udiah met his bail conditions, but police declined to release him, citing a court order, and on October 19 police told Udiah’s lawyer that he had been charged with 14 counts of alleged defamation and injurious publication — though they did not provide his lawyer with a copy of the charges. Udiah, who was 72-years-old, had to be rushed by police to the hospital due to his high blood pressure on November 2, but police continued to detain him for a total of 30 days before he was released, according to <a href="https://cpj.org/2020/11/nigeria-journalist-oga-tom-uhia-detained-for-weeks-on-defamation-complaint/">local reports</a>. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2020/11/nigeria-journalist-oga-tom-uhia-detained-for-weeks-on-defamation-complaint/">https://cpj.org/2020/11/nigeria-journalist-oga-tom-uhia-detained-for-weeks-on-defamation-complaint/</a></p>
<p><b>October 21-29, 2020</b></p>	<p>Police officers allegedly harassed or attacked at least four journalists and media workers in Nigeria’s southern Rivers State in late October 2020, amid protests against police brutality and a curfew imposed by local authorities in response to those protests. Authorities also fined three news outlets that covered the protests, according to sources. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2020/12/police-harass-journalists-fine-broadcasters-amid-protests-in-nigeria/">https://cpj.org/2020/12/police-harass-journalists-fine-broadcasters-amid-protests-in-nigeria/</a></p>

Date(s)	Description of attack or violation
<p><b>October 24-30, 2020</b></p>	<p><b>Onifade Emmanuel Pelumi</b>, a Nigerian reporter and intern with the privately owned Gboah TV, was found dead on October 30, 2020 in a mortuary in southwestern Lagos state — six days after he was last seen alive, while covering an attempted break-in at a government facility. One of Pelumi’s colleagues, who was with him at the scene, said he saw Pelumi (who was dressed in a press jacket) sustain an apparent gunshot wound, before being placed into a police van along with some of the alleged robbers. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/data/people/onifade-emmanuel-pelumi/">https://cpj.org/data/people/onifade-emmanuel-pelumi/</a></p>
<p><b>April 15, 2021</b></p>	<p>On April 15, 2021, five armed police officers visited the privately owned <i>Daily Nigerian</i> news website office, where they issued a letter summoning the publisher, <b>Jaafar Jaafar</b> (who was not present at the time) to police headquarters for questioning about his alleged “criminal conspiracy, defamation, injurious falsehood and inciting violence.” According to the news website’s associate editor, Jaafar (who believed he was being persecuted for “exposing a corrupt official”) went into hiding and did not attend the police questioning. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2021/04/police-summon-daily-nigerian-publisher-jaafar-jaafar-following-governors-threat/">https://cpj.org/2021/04/police-summon-daily-nigerian-publisher-jaafar-jaafar-following-governors-threat/</a></p>
<p><b>April 28, 2021</b></p>	<p>In the northwestern state of Kogi, journalist <b>Frederick Olatunde Odimayo</b> (a freelance reporter and editor with the privately owned broadcaster, <i>Grace FM</i>) was attacked by five men, who Odimayo says accused him of destroying their drug trafficking business with his reporting, and then beat him until he lost consciousness. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2021/04/nigerian-journalist-frederick-olatunde-odimayo-beaten-over-drug-reporting/">https://cpj.org/2021/04/nigerian-journalist-frederick-olatunde-odimayo-beaten-over-drug-reporting/</a></p>
<p><b>May 20, 2021</b></p>	<p>Starting on May 20, 2021, Nigerian <i>BBC</i> host <b>Peter Nkanga</b> received dozens of threatening calls and text messages (including death threats), by anonymous individuals angered over a recent documentary aired by the <i>BBC</i> — which included footage of a physical assault carried out by Ahmed Isah, the host of a popular Nigerian radio show, called the <i>Brekete Family Program</i>. Nkanga went into hiding, due to fear for his safety. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2021/05/nigerian-bbc-host-peter-nkanga-receives-death-threats/">https://cpj.org/2021/05/nigerian-bbc-host-peter-nkanga-receives-death-threats/</a></p>
<p><b>October 20, 2021</b></p>	<p>In three separate incidents, police officers arrested, harassed, or beat up three journalists — <b>Sikiru Obarayese</b> (<i>Daily Post</i> newspaper), <b>Abisola Alawode</b> (<i>Legit</i> news website), and <b>Adefemi Akinsanya</b> (<i>Arise</i> TV) — as they covered memorials marking the one-year anniversary of an incident which saw Nigerian security forces shoot and kill protesters at the Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos, during protests which called for an end to police brutality across Nigeria. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2021/11/nigerian-police-assault-detain-journalists-covering-memorials-marking-lekki-toll-gate-killings/">https://cpj.org/2021/11/nigerian-police-assault-detain-journalists-covering-memorials-marking-lekki-toll-gate-killings/</a></p>
<p><b>November 4, 2021</b></p>	<p>Police in Nigeria’s northern Kaduna state arrested <b>Luke Binniyat</b>, a journalist who contributes to the U.S.-based outlet <i>The Epoch Times</i>, in November 2021, in response to a complaint filed by a government minister. Binniyat — who had published a report criticizing the Kaduna state government’s response to recent killings of Christians — was charged under Nigeria’s Cybercrimes Act for allegedly distributing false information and was detained for 84 days before being released on bail. This was the second time Binniyat has been detained over his reporting (the MFWA <a href="#">reported</a> that the journalist was also charged with “breach of public peace” and false reporting in July 2017 — which resulted in him being detained for 96 days before he was released on bail). Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2022/02/cpj-welcomes-nigerian-journalist-luka-binniyats-release-on-bail-calls-for-end-to-prosecution/">https://cpj.org/2022/02/cpj-welcomes-nigerian-journalist-luka-binniyats-release-on-bail-calls-for-end-to-prosecution/</a></p>

Date(s)	Description of attack or violation
January 3, 2022	Eight men, armed with sticks, entered the offices of the <i>Thunder Blowers</i> news website in Nigeria's northern Zamfara state, where they beat editor <b>Mansur Rabiu</b> , smashed eight desktop computers and an internet server, and stole technical equipment. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2022/01/men-raid-office-of-nigerian-outlet-thunder-blowers-steal-equipment-and-beat-editor/">https://cpj.org/2022/01/men-raid-office-of-nigerian-outlet-thunder-blowers-steal-equipment-and-beat-editor/</a>
January 10, 2022	Four officers of Nigeria's National Intelligence Agency (NIA) entered the <i>Peoples Gazette</i> office in Abuja — ignoring the security guard's attempts to stop them — searching for the website's manager <b>Samuel Ogundipe</b> and reporter <b>Hillary Essien</b> , and brandishing a letter demanding the <i>Peoples Gazette</i> produce the name of several unnamed sources, for a report relating to the NIA's director general. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2022/01/nigerian-intelligence-agency-demands-sources-from-peoples-gazette-news-site/">https://cpj.org/2022/01/nigerian-intelligence-agency-demands-sources-from-peoples-gazette-news-site/</a>
February 23, 2022	Four unidentified men attacked, beat, shot at, and briefly abducted journalists <b>Fredrick Nnaji</b> and <b>Chigozie Nwafor</b> (both working for the <i>Enugu State Broadcasting Service</i> or <i>ESBS</i> ), as they were driving to cover local elections in Enugu state, southeast Nigeria. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2022/03/two-enugu-state-broadcaster-journalists-abducted-beat-en-while-covering-nigerian-elections/">https://cpj.org/2022/03/two-enugu-state-broadcaster-journalists-abducted-beat-en-while-covering-nigerian-elections/</a>
April 29, 2022	Officers from the Nigerian Department of State Security (DSS) arrested <b>Olamilekan Hammed Adewale Bashiru</b> , founder of the privately owned news website <i>EaglesForeSight</i> , after the outlet republished a report about the "alleged criminal records" of Ogun state governor, Dapo Abiodun. Bashiru was detained at DSS headquarters after going there for questioning on April 29 — where authorities allegedly compelled him to publicly apologize for republishing the article, then kept him detained for <b>138 days</b> , before the case was struck out by the Federal High Court in Ogun State. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2022/05/nigerian-journalist-detained-after-republishing-article-about-ogun-state-governor/">https://cpj.org/2022/05/nigerian-journalist-detained-after-republishing-article-about-ogun-state-governor/</a>
June 27, 2022	On June 27, publisher <b>Haruna Mohammed Salisu</b> and reporter <b>Idris Kamal</b> (both with the privately owned <i>Wikkitimes</i> news website) were arrested and detained by police in the city of Bauchi — before being charged (the next day) with criminal conspiracy, defamation, and cyberstalking, over political reporting published by <i>Wikkitimes</i> on May 18. They were held overnight and then released on bail the next day. Although the prosecution dropped the cyberstalking charge (as the court lacked jurisdiction), convictions for defamation and conspiracy each carry up to two years in prison and an unspecified fine. According to a <a href="#">story</a> published by <i>Wikkitimes</i> on May 4, 2023, the case is still ongoing. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2022/07/nigerian-authorities-criminally-charge-2-journalists-over-political-reporting/">https://cpj.org/2022/07/nigerian-authorities-criminally-charge-2-journalists-over-political-reporting/</a>
August 12, 2022	Police officers in the southern Akwa Ibom State detained newspaper distributor, <b>Chidi Ngadiuba</b> , for nearly a full day in an attempt to compel journalist <b>Ifreke Nseowo</b> (publisher of <i>TheMail</i> newspaper) to come in for questioning. Ngadiuba was released without charge only after the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) agreed in writing that it would ensure that Nseowo would present himself at police headquarters on August 16 — which did not happen because Nseowo went into hiding for fear he would be arrested and detained. Although the police declined to explain why they wanted Nseowo, the incident followed complaints made by a local politician, who accused <i>TheMail</i> of criminal libel and demanded that Nseowo disclose a source from a July article. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2022/08/nigerian-police-arrest-newspaper-distributor-in-place-of-journalist-in-hiding/">https://cpj.org/2022/08/nigerian-police-arrest-newspaper-distributor-in-place-of-journalist-in-hiding/</a>

Date(s)	Description of attack or violation
<p><b>September 29, 2022</b></p>	<p>On September 29, 2022, two police officers arrested journalist <b>Ayodeji Adebayo</b> in Abuja — following a complaint by politician Akinlayo Davidson Kolawole over a September 9 report published by <i>Daily Metro News</i> alleging Kolawole's involvement in fraud. Upon Adebayo's arrest, officers seized his phone and detained him for six days, before releasing him. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2022/10/nigerian-journalist-ayodeji-adebayo-detained-for-6-days-over-report-about-local-politician/">https://cpj.org/2022/10/nigerian-journalist-ayodeji-adebayo-detained-for-6-days-over-report-about-local-politician/</a></p>
<p><b>October 13, 2022</b></p>	<p>Two journalists — <b>Abdulrasheed Akogun</b> (publisher of the privately owned <i>Fresh Insight</i> online news site) and <b>Dare Akogun</b> (senior reporter with private broadcaster <i>Sobi 101.9FM</i>) — were detained by police officers at Ilorin (Kwara State) on criminal charges for comments they posted in a popular WhatsApp group. Both journalists were released on bail on October 19, and stood accused of criminal conspiracy, defamation, inciting disturbance, injurious falsehood, and cyberstalking. According to <a href="#">news reports</a>, the case was later dropped by the Kwara State Government, in December 2022. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2022/10/nigerian-police-detain-charge-two-journalists-for-whatsapp-messages/">https://cpj.org/2022/10/nigerian-police-detain-charge-two-journalists-for-whatsapp-messages/</a></p>
<p><b>November 28, 2022</b></p>	<p>In November 2022, Nigerian authorities detained <b>Oloye Ayodele Samuel</b> (CEO and publisher of <i>Taraba Truth &amp; Facts</i>, a newspaper and news website based in the northern state of Taraba), as part of a defamation case filed by a local business. If found guilty, Samuel faces two years imprisonment and an unspecified fine under Sections 392 and 393 of the Nigerian penal code. Although the court set terms for Samuel's bail, those terms were overruled on November 30, and according to <a href="#">news reports</a> he remained in detention until December 12. Samuel's November arrest followed reports of an alleged assassination plan against him, <a href="#">reported on</a> by the MFWA earlier in 2022. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/data/people/oloye-ayodele-samuel/">https://cpj.org/data/people/oloye-ayodele-samuel/</a></p>
<p><b>February 7, 2023</b></p>	<p><b>Gidado Yushau</b> (publisher of the privately owned website <i>News Digest</i>) and freelance reporter <b>Alfred Olufemi</b> were convicted on conspiracy and defamation charges by a magistrate court in Nigeria's southern Kwara State. The court ordered the journalists to be jailed for five months or pay 100,000 nairas (US\$219) each, which they paid to avoid jail. The pair were initially arrested and charged in 2019 over a report about alleged cannabis use at a rice processing facility. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2023/04/nigerian-journalists-gidado-yushau-and-alfred-olufemi-convicted-of-conspiracy-defamation/">https://cpj.org/2023/04/nigerian-journalists-gidado-yushau-and-alfred-olufemi-convicted-of-conspiracy-defamation/</a></p>
<p><b>February 25, 2023</b></p>	<p><i>WikkiTimes</i> publisher, <b>Haruna Mohammed Salisu</b> was arrested on February 25 while covering national elections, and charged with inciting the public to disturb the Bauchi state governor. Although Salisu was granted bail on March 1, if convicted Salisu could face up to three years in prison with a fine of 600 naira (around US\$1.30), according to CPJ. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2023/03/nigerian-publisher-haruna-mohammed-salisu-released-on-bail/">https://cpj.org/2023/03/nigerian-publisher-haruna-mohammed-salisu-released-on-bail/</a></p>
<p><b>March 18-19, 2023</b></p>	<p>CPJ documented incidents of at least <b>28 journalists</b> being harassed, beaten, attacked, and/or denied access while covering state elections across Nigeria on March 18 and 19, 2023. More details about these incidents can be found at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2023/03/at-least-28-journalists-harassed-beaten-denied-access-while-covering-nigerian-state-elections/">https://cpj.org/2023/03/at-least-28-journalists-harassed-beaten-denied-access-while-covering-nigerian-state-elections/</a></p>

Date(s)	Description of attack or violation
<p><b>March 27, 2023</b></p>	<p>A federal court in Abuja ordered the detention of <i>CrossRiverWatch</i> publisher, <b>Agba Jalingo</b>, for allegedly publishing false news that caused “annoyance, ill will and insult,” in violation of the country’s Cybercrimes Act. The charge relates to a June 2022 <i>CrossRiverWatch</i> article which alleged that the sister-in-law of Cross River State Governor Ben Ayade paid someone to take a law school exam for her. <a href="#">Local news</a> outlets reported that Jalingo was released on bail after one week of detention, pending the determination of the case against him. This detention follows the laying of previous charges against Jalingo (for which he was later acquitted) back in 2019, again in relation to his reporting about Ben Ayade. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2023/03/nigerian-journalist-agba-jalingo-detained-on-cybercrime-charges/">https://cpj.org/2023/03/nigerian-journalist-agba-jalingo-detained-on-cybercrime-charges/</a></p>
<p><b>April 17, 2023</b></p>	<p><b>Benedict Uwalaka</b> — a Nigerian freelance photojournalist working with the privately owned <i>Daily Trust</i> newspaper — was attacked by an unidentified police officer while covering a protest at a Lagos airport. Uwalaka said that the officer damaged his camera and punched him about 10 times, injuring his hand. Although the officer took Uwalaka to the airport’s police station, officers at the station say they do not know who the officer was and have no way to trace him. Read more at: <a href="https://cpj.org/2023/04/nigerian-police-officer-attacks-journalist-benedict-uwalaka-over-protest-coverage/">https://cpj.org/2023/04/nigerian-police-officer-attacks-journalist-benedict-uwalaka-over-protest-coverage/</a></p>



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